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Japanese Officials Remark

BK1711015993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Nov 93 p B13, B14

[By Thepchai Yong in Tokyo]

[Text] WHEN Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa goes to Seattle this week for the first summit of the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec), he will try to portray Japan as a moderating force between the two extremes in the regional forum.

At least, that's the direction policy planners at the Foreign Ministry want to see Japan take. "Japan will want to function as a go-between," one of them said in an interview. He said there is a need "to strike a good balance" between the "maximalist" Apec members who advocate turning the forum into a negotiating body and adopting a trade and investment framework agreement, and the "minimalists" which want it to remain an informal consultative group.

It is no secret that Japan has always been on the side of the "go slow" Apec members and is nervous that the maximalists, notably Washington and Canberra, are moving too fast. Thailand and most of the other Southeast Asian countries want to see the regional forum move ahead at a more cautious pace.

Japanese officials interviewed in Tokyo this week openly called for a gradual development of Apec. "Apec is only five years old. We should not be too hasty about it," said one of the officials on condition of anonymity.

His caution is clearly aimed at what is seen as Washington's attempt to impose its own agenda on the future of the grouping. In fact, the US role has caused resentment and anxiety among some countries, notably Malaysia which is boycotting the summit. Their fear is that Washington intends to dominate the direction of the grouping at the expense of the economically weaker member countries.

According to these Japanese officials one of the points Prime Minister Hosokawa is expected to stress during the summit is the need to respect the economic, political and social diversity within the region.

"It is important that because of the diversity among the member countries Apec has to move step by step," one of them said.

Japanese officials believe that Apec as a free trade area is still a long way off. The view echoed that of Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak who has signalled Thailand's reluctance to see Apec turned into a free trade area largely because of the economic disparity within the region. The officials also emphasized Japan's stand that Apec should be an open economic forum and non-members should be entitled to the benefits of whatever its trade arrangements.

Kazuo Ogura, director general of the Economic Affairs Bureau, said the Seattle summit will serve as an opportunity for Apec leaders to dispel misconceptions in certain European quarters that the grouping was a threat to them.

"We have to make it clear to the rest of the world that Apec is a positive development and not a threat," Ogura said. He said Apec leaders should, therefore, stress the commitment to making Apec an economic forum open to all non-members.

One of the officials admitted he was optimistic enough not to expect any concrete outcome from the summit. He said the summit will basically be a forum for Apec leaders to reaffirm their sense of community and eagerness to promote regional cooperation.

"If the Apec leaders do just that, the summit would already be a success," he said.

However, he said he believed that the Seattle meeting will add important impetus to the regional grouping which was founded in 1989 initially as an informal forum in response to the rise in economic regionalism.

The summit, to be preceded by a ministerial meeting, comes just a month before GATT's latest self-imposed deadline for completing the Uruguay Round of world trade talks. Japanese officials said Apec member countries should use the summit to reaffirm their commitment to a success of the GATT talks.

"The utmost priority is to make the Uruguay Round a success," said Sadaaki Numata, deputy press secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

He said Apec should reinforce GATT and not substitute it as some quarters have suggested in the event the Uruguay Round fails.

Addressing concerns in some quarters that the United States was trying to hijack Apec and dominate its agenda, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said the Seattle summit should be seen as a forum for the Clinton administration to reaffirm US commitment to this region.

"It is a good opportunity for Americans to show they are part of Asia and the Pacific," he said.

A planning official of the Foreign Ministry said Apec should provide what he described as "economic justification" for continuing US security presence in the region.

While there is a general consensus among countries in Asia and the Pacific that the US presence is still necessary given the potential of new regional conflicts in the post-Cold War era, he said the US security commitment has to be justified with economic interest. The official said American people need to be convinced that as the fastest-growing region, Asia and the Pacific holds the prospects for jobs and wealth for their economy.

"You simply cannot ask the US to stay on and yet exclude it from economic benefits," he said.

For American officials eager to add vigour to the grouping, holding the summit in Seattle will provide them with a unique opportunity in getting an important message across to the American public.

William Bodde Jr, the American executive director of Apec's secretariat in Singapore, said in a recent interview that having the summit in Seattle will help raise the consciousness of the American public about Apec, Asia and the Pacific.

"That's important. The American media and most of what you read, see and hear in Washington is still very Eurocentric. Americans need to become more aware of the growth potential of the Asia-Pacific and the opportunities this opens up for expanding American exports and jobs," Bodde was quoted as saying.

The Seattle summit will take place at a crucial juncture for the Clinton administration. It will come after the House of Representatives votes on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

While Japanese officials share concern that a rejection of NAFTA by the US Congress will heighten protectionism in the United States, they were disturbed by a Clinton administration official's suggestion that it would prompt Japan to exploit the Mexican market.

"It is ironic that both the opponents and proponents of NAFTA try to use Japan to reinforce their stands. We have made known our concerns to all those concerned, including the US administration," said Numata of the Foreign Ministry.

The Seattle summit will be without Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed who has openly questioned the motive of the Clinton administration in hosting the meeting. He was quoted as saying in a recent interview that the way President Clinton coerced other Apec members into attending the summit was "undemocratic".

His fears of a US domination over the grouping has been most pronounced. Mahathir has been insisting that Apec remain a loose grouping principally concerned with assisting the development of the Asia Pacific's weaker economies.

Most other countries in the region however, have been lukewarm to Mahathir's idea for the formation of the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) to counter what he perceived as the emergence of trade blocs like the European Community and NAFTA.

Japan so far has been non-committal on the Malaysian initiative and Japanese officials interviewed said they were not aware of a report that Rafidah Aziz, Malaysia's outspoken minister of international trade and industry, will be pushing Mahathir's views in Seattle this week.

The officials said Japan has taken no definite stand on EAEC but made it clear that they don't want it to come in the way of Apec.

"If there is to be an EAEC, it should strengthen and not undermine Apec," said the senior policy planner of the Foreign Ministry.

Japanese Prime Minister Interviewed

BK1711013993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Nov 93 p A1, A2

[By Thepchai Yong in Tokyo]

[Text] PRIME Minister Morihiro Hosokawa yesterday reaffirmed Japan's call for a gradual development of the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation [Apec] forum which respects the diversity of countries in the region. He said Japan had no desire to see the regional forum institutionalized or turned into a free trading area.

"It is very important that we respect the interest of the developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region and heed their opinions and try to promote the activities of Apec step by step," Hosokawa told a group of Asian journalists in an interview at his office here three days before he is to depart for the Apec summit in Seattle. The Japanese leader's stand on the direction of Apec is shared by most of the Southeast Asian member countries including Thailand, which want to see the grouping move at a cautious pace.

These countries have become apprehensive about possible domination by the US which, along with Canberra, wants a faster move towards trade liberalization aimed at opening rapidly growing Southeast Asian markets to exports.

Southeast Asian Apec members would rather see Apec remain a loose consultative body and not evolve into a trade negotiating body.

Japan so far has positioned itself between the two extremes in the grouping, with one Japanese Foreign Ministry official describing Tokyo's role as that of a "go-between".

As a region whose countries are at different stages of economic development, Hosokawa said diversity within Asia and the Pacific had to be respected.

"Therefore, it is not realistic for us to pursue a free trading area in which economic transactions will take place with all the participating countries adhering to the same terms and conditions," he said. He also stressed the need for Apec to be an open economic forum which does not discriminate against non-regional countries.

"The framework for regional cooperation should be one that is in accordance with GATT and where benefits accrued internally should be enjoyed by countries outside the region without conditions," he said.

The prime minister said member countries must strive to make Apec a model for regional cooperation in the face of increasing regionalism. He said he looked forward to having in-depth discussions at the summit "on how best we can cooperate with each other in the interest of stability and prosperity of this region."

Hosokawa said he wanted the summit to be a gathering that will help to guide the way to recovery of the world economy.

Declaring Japan's commitment to push for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, Hosokawa said he expected Apec leaders to demonstrate their political will at the summit for a completion of the world trade talks by the self-imposed Dec 15 deadline. He dismissed suggestions in certain quarters that Apec would become a substitute of GATT should the world trade system collapse. "Apec should play the role of complementing GATT and should not, and cannot, substitute GATT if the Uruguay Round fails," he said.

On the question of regional security Hosokawa called for political and security dialogue among countries in the region to deal with regional conflicts.

As for Japan's role, he said that since the US military presence plays a major role in the regional stability, his country would continue to uphold the US-Japanese security treaty. He also stressed Japan's policy of not becoming a military power and said that its defence build-up would not be a threat to its neighbours.

"Our defence capability should never become a threat to our neighbours. And one of the Japanese people's basic tenets today is never to allow Japan to become a military power," he said.

While political and security dialogue is necessary in increasing the sense of assurance among countries in this region, Hosokawa said economic development would be a key answer to problems of regional instability.

Hosokawa said it was "unnecessary and not realistic" to have a collective security set-up such as Nato for this region. "I believe that we should try to work out resolutions as much as possible through diplomatic efforts and political dialogue," he said.

Hosokawa said he would try to have bilateral meetings with leaders of the ASEAN countries, including Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, during the Seattle summit.

The interview with Hosokawa took place just minutes after an ad hoc committee in the Lower House passed the political reform package which has become a centrepiece of his administration's platform. Hosokawa has pledged to get the reform package, which is due to be voted in the Lower House tomorrow, through the Diet by the year-end or resign.

The prime minister said in the interview that he would try to fight for the reforms "by all means."

APEC Senior Officials' Report Noted

OW1711035093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0236 GMT 17 Nov 93

[By Antonio Kamiya]

[Text] Seattle, Nov. 16 KYODO—Senior officials of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum agreed Tuesday [16 November] to keep the fledgling regional group as a loosely linked organization instead of a highly integrated institution.

"Cooperation and market-based activity—not structure or bureaucracy—are the foundation of any APEC community," the officials said, reflecting concerns of Asian member countries, in a report to APEC ministers meeting on Wednesday. The future structure of APEC has been a major focus of debate among members of the 15-member regional group since a panel of economists appointed by APEC called for the creation of an "Asia-Pacific Economic Community" and the promotion of free trade within the region.

The economists, known as the Eminent Persons Group headed by Fred Bergsten, director of the Washington-based Institute for International Economics, also recommended that APEC member countries make up their mind by 1996 to set a timetable for achieving the free-trade objective. The eminent persons report has drawn fire within the APEC group, particularly from newly industrializing countries in Southeast Asia, that its regional trade liberalization proposals do not reflect political and economic realities in the Asia-Pacific region.

The APEC senior officials, in a 13-page report summing up their two days of closed-door deliberations, said they "warmly" welcomed the Bergsten report but sidestepped its controversial proposals.

The senior officials, according to a copy of the report made available to KYODO NEWS SERVICE, took issue with the eminent persons group proposal for regional economic integration. The APEC senior officials said the Eminent Persons Group should be asked to look into whether regional trade liberalization would be "advanced or retarded by adoption of a structured approach in place of (market driven) autonomous action."

They also recommended that the Eminent Persons Group look into the scope of regional trade liberalization and how to implement it in a way consistent with global trade rules under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) regime.

The officials, acting on concern from Japan, also cast doubt on the necessity to set up a legally binding "Asia-Pacific dispute settlement process" as proposed in the Bergsten report.

Japan has criticized the concept of an APEC dispute settlement mechanism as too legalistic, saying it does reflect the consensus-seeking process favored in Asia.

"The idea of a dispute settlement process is essentially a Western approach, not Asian," a senior Japanese Government official said.

The U.S. Government also signaled that the United States will take a step-by-step approach in the evolution of the five-year-old regional group.

"The United States is content to work with APEC at a pace that is working—that is step by step," a senior U.S. Administration official said.

APEC, set up in 1989, consists of the United States, Canada, Japan, and 12 countries in the Pacific rim. Membership is expected to increase to 17 this week with the likely addition of Mexico and Papua New Guinea. APEC officials said APEC foreign and trade ministers will decide on the membership as their first item of business when they gather on Wednesday to kick off the annual ministerial meeting.

A dozen or so countries in Latin America and Asia have also expressed interest in joining the regional group, home to the most dynamic economic region in the world.

While the APEC ministers are expected to approve membership for Mexico and Papua New Guinea, they will likely put off a decision on membership for other aspiring countries. The officials say the regional group must first set up specific guidelines for admitting new members.

"None of us is interested in turning APEC into a United Nations," an APEC official said.

Australia's Keating Comments

BK1711080093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating, has welcomed indications from the American Secretary of State Warren Christopher that the United States would turn to the Asia-Pacific if Europe turned more protectionist. Linda Mottram reports that ahead of his departure for the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] leaders' meeting in Seattle, Mr. Keating reiterated that he wanted to see the group work to facilitate trade in the region.

[Begin recording] [Mottram] Speaking in the national parliament in Canberra, Mr. Keating has branded as historic the meeting of leaders of the APEC countries in Seattle.

[Keating] The meeting will be conducted without officials and without precooked outcomes, without these precooked communiques. At the preceding ministerial meeting which the foreign ministers will be attending, will have the (?same) under consideration a number of practical new initiatives including the establishment of a trade and investment framework which will help our trade facilitation agenda and consideration of the report of the Eminent Persons Group.

[Mottram] The prime minister said the meetings would also take the chance to urge a successful outcome to the Uruguay Round of GATT talks, noting the importance of the multinational trade system in building the rapid growth now being experienced in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Keating said the challenge now for the region was to become more closely integrated and to expand the velocity of trade, again emphasizing the harmonization of rules and standards rather than trade liberalization. [end recording]

Thai Premier Wants Stronger APEC

BK1711074293 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Talking to reporters at the Bangkok International Airport this morning before leaving for the United States to attend the APEC ministerial meeting in Seattle, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said one of his objetives for this trip is to see APEC become a stronger organization than what it is now.

He said that during the visit to the United States, he will have a private meeting with the U.S. President to discuss Thai-U.S. economic cooperation. It would be a good opportunity for Thailand to expand trade with other countries, he said, noting that the APEC meeting will be attended by many leaders from various countries such as China, Japan, Canada, and the ASEAN.

The Thai prime minister said ASEAN ministers arrived earlier in the U.S. before the APEC meeting for a preparatory conference to set guidelines and a framework for the main APEC meeting, and a unified ASEAN stand and direction.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister's Office spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa remarked on the same occasion that the APEC meeting would provide good opportunities for leaders of various countries to meet and have discussions with one another, especially for Thailand after it alleviated its intellectual property problem with the United States. Discussion at the APEC meeting will include bilateral issues with an emphasis placed on technology and the environment. Talks between the Thai prime minister and leaders of other countries will focus on ways and means to expand trade cooperation.

Thai Foreign Minister Cited

BK1711061193 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri says that he expects the institutionalization of APEC to result in strengthening cooperation in various fields.

Speaking before leaving for Seattle on Monday, the foreign minister says that a declaration is expected to be signed on framework for trade and investment cooperation in APEC. Also an APEC foundation will be established to support exchanges and education in the region.

Preparations will be also be made for the organizing of a business roundtable. This will benefit Thai business people. The foreign minister says that the setting up of business groups to assist newly established companies in developing countries will result in human resources development and technology transfer. Also APEC cooperation will be consolidated to ensure sustainable development and economic growth of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak, meanwhile, says that Thailand maintains an objective and cautious approach to APEC. The institutionalization of APEC has to be systematic and formalized step by step. He emphasizes that the conclusion of the Uruguay Round remains of top priority for APEC.

Singapore Trade Minister Comments

BK1711104493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0630 GMT 17 Nov 93

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Asian government ministers have cautioned against any quick move to an Asia-Pacific free trade area. But the Asian trade and foreign ministers gathering in Seattle for the annual meeting of APEC, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group, are backing the creation of a North American Free Trade Area [NAFTA]. United States Congress is due to vote late tomorrow on the NAFTA treaty and it's being seen as a crucial decision for the leadership of President Bill Clinton. From the APEC talks in Seattle, Graeme Dobell reports:

[Begin recording] [Dobell] Asian states have long been critical of NAFTA as a preferential deal which will make it harder for them to sell to North America. But the symbolic importance of the free trade vote in Washington has overcome that antagonism. One of the longest-serving Southeast Asian ministers attending the APEC talks, Singapore's trade minister, Mr. Dhanabalan, says a no-vote on NAFTA will call into question America's commitment to free trade everywhere and weaken President Clinton.

[Dhanabalan] If NAFTA doesn't get through, in very narrow terms, it should not concern us in ASEAN, right. Because, what is NAFTA? It is going to create a kind of preferential trading area, which means that those outside this area would have to jump over a hurdle which those within the area would not have to. So, in that sense it puts us at a disadvantage and if we are very narrow-minded we should in fact welcome NAFTA not going to... [pauses] but what we are very concerned is the reasons for which NAFTA will be rejected. The reasons are, if it is rejected, an unwillingness of American economy to compete in the world, a loss of confidence in being able to compete with the world, and these are reasons which will not stop at the rejection of NAFTA. It will go on to GATT, it will go on to relationship with other developing countries. For that reason, we are very very concerned that if NAFTA is rejected it will have great implications for us. And that is why we want NAFTA to be accepted.

[Dobell] The Clinton administration said it expects to win congressional approval for the NAFTA agreement, but the special trade representative, Mickey Kantor, has delayed his flight to Seattle to lobby for the vote. From Washington, Mr. Kantor sent this message to an APEC symposium being held before the ministers convene.

[Kantor] I am looking forward to joining you on Thursday for a truly historic meeting both at the ministerial level and of course at the heads of government level. President Clinton will be joining you as well on Thursday. Asia is the fastest growing economic region in the world and (?I think) one of the most dynamic regions of the world. The United States is committed to be fully engaged politically and in security terms and also in economic terms with Asia over the next few years and the APEC forum is a vital part of our strategy. As we build a new trade and investment framework at this conference, as we engaged on a mutual basis between partners who care about expanding trade and protecting investment and protecting intellectual property and making sure that we all finish the Uruguay Round, we also need to join together to make sure we continue to commit ourselves to the multilateral trade framework that has so enhanced the trade around the world and groom jobs.

[Dobell] The APEC talks are to consider an Eminent Persons Report calling for the creation of a free trade area in the Asia-Pacific. But while endorsing NAFTA because of its symbolic importance, Singapore's trade minister, Mr. Dhanabalan says something similar is a long way off for the whole Asia-Pacific.

[Dhanabalan] I would say that's very far down the road. They're already building blocs of such free trade areas. Unless the ASEAN Free Trade Area that would be implemented from probably next year, that will be one building bloc. There is, of course, NAFTA, which is currently under discussion; that will be another building bloc. Now whether these two building blocs can work together, that's something that we need to explore. There are also other not so formal building blocs but cooperative areas, for example, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and southern China. There's a very strong economic linkage there. So, the different building blocs that are emerging and that there must be opportunity and scope for linkages within these different building blocs. And if they do get together and the linkage is strengthened, then over time a free trade area is possible. But I think that's fairly far down the road. [end recording]

Lee Kuan Yew, Kissinger View NAFTA Impact

BK1611093093 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 16 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] If the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) fails to get through Congress tomorrow, it will signal to Southeast Asia that America is introverted, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew said yesterday.

"If you can't accommodate your neighbours' problems how are you going to accommodate East Asia's dynamism, and how are you going to accommodate the rest of the world? Or the Uruguay Round?" he asked.

Speaking at the AMEX Bank Review Awards Global Forum, he noted that the days of economic self-sufficiency were over. Countries needed to be interdependent and on good terms for peace and prosperity to reign.

Citing the case of China, which he described as "awakened", he said: "The Chinese will learn, just like the Japanese have done, that however dynamic, they need to import, they need to export, they need friends, they need peace and stability.

"And the choice is not between low wages and low social security and high wages and the rigidities of the system, but between war and peace. And that is what NAFTA is about, that is what APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] is about, and that is what the Uruguay Round is about."

Highlighting the importance of economic integration, Mr. Lee said he had not met any chairman of a multinational company who believed that it was possible to simply source products from one country and export them to another.

"To make a product, you source it from three, four, five, six different countries in order to have the lowest cost for the world market," he said.

Also speaking at the discussion on global economic and political issues were former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former French Premier Raymond Barre. Held at the Shangri-la Hotel and televised live, the forum drew an audience of 500 business leaders, academics diplomats, and government officials. The three statesmen each commented on the implications of economic and political trends for the U.S., Asia and Europe, and took questions from the floor.

NAFTA was one of the issues raised. The agreement was signed by the U.S., Canada, and Mexico last year and aims to tear down import tariffs, customs inspections, and trade rules. It must be approved by the U.S. Congress before it can go into effect next January.

Dr. Kissinger, who was the Secretary of State under U.S. Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, saw NAFTA as the single most important foreign policy decision that the American Congress would make during President Bill Clinton's term.

"I don't look at NAFTA as a trade agreement. I look at NAFTA as a new political orientation for the United States," he said. For the first time in American history, the United States and Mexico which he said now had the "most progressive and open-minded government", would be brought together in a cooperative tie-up.

"For NAFTA to be defeated would be a signal that special interests of relatively narrow orientation have managed to sway the American Congress," he noted. "It would have a terrible effect on GATT, and it would have a very inhibiting effect on the future of foreign policy."

He said it was obvious that the economic danger of NAFTA could not come from American companies moving their plants to Mexico, where wage costs are lower.

"What is going on in Asia is so incomparably more important that the danger to America economically is not loss of jobs to Mexico, but irrelevance, in falling behind the economically more productive areas of the world if we don't get our economy right," he said.

He also pointed out that if President Bill Clinton did not get congressional support on this issue, both the GATT talks and the future of American foreign policy would be affected badly.

Mr. Clinton's prestige would also be affected, he said noting that it would be "painful" for him to face Asian leaders at the APEC conference in Seattle later this week.

U.S. Foreign Policy Discussed

BK1611115093 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 16 Nov 93 p 20

[By Vikram Khanna]

[Text] Singapore—Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger have questioned the lack of strategic content in U.S. foreign policy, particularly towards China.

Mr. Lee and Dr. Kissinger were participating, together with former French Prime Minister Raymond Barre, in a panel discussion on global political and economic issues on the first day of the AMEX Bank Review Awards Global Forum at the Shangri-La Hotel yesterday.

Mr. Lee pointed out that at the end of the Cold War, "issues of human rights have become an obsession with the U.S. media, Congress and the Administration. They have distracted attention away from the major challenge the world faces in the next century, namely whether China will become a constructive and cooperative partner of the United States, Europe, and Japan in maintaining world peace, stability, and prosperity".

"The baiting of China by American human rights groups is done in a manner which ignores differences of culture, values, and history, and subordinates the strategic considerations of China-U.S. relations to an American domestic agenda," Mr. Lee said. He suggested that "such a haphazard approach risks turning China into a long-term adversary of the United States".

Mr. Lee noted that, barring grave political setbacks, East Asia will remain the world's most economically dynamic region for the next 20 to 30 years. The region will have an increasingly educated workforce, and will witness rising investment needs (particularly for infrastructure), an intensified competition for capital, as well as buoyant consumer demand from a larger and more affluent middle class.

The political configuration of the Asia-Pacific will be redefined by shifts in economic power in the next decade, according to Mr. Lee.

The main imponderable here is the U.S. economy, which would need to be robust if Washington is to stay engaged, economically, and militarily, in the Asia-Pacific over the long run as most countries of the region want it to.

Dr. Kissinger, who was the architect of U.S. foreign policy under former President Richard Nixon, noted that the post-Cold War world was no longer one of ideological conflict and urged that the United States adjust its foreign policy to new circumstances.

"America must now face the fact that it has become a nation like other nations—not a cause, but a nation," he pointed out. "And it must relate itself to other countries in terms of the benefits to be derived. It needs to develop a strategic doctrine and some continuity in its actions."

A U.S. foreign policy based on national interest would not seek to antagonise both Japan and China at the same time, according to Dr. Kissinger.

He pointed out that "in one year, we managed to assault Japan on trade and China on human rights".

This does not make sense because "if you want to fight one politically, you need the other". Nor is it logical for the United States "to exclude itself from China's economic expansion".

Mr Barre focused on issues relating to Europe. He observed that "the old continent" was beset with "a new wave of Euro-pessimism", because of recession, high unemployment, the painful reunification of Germany, the decomposition of Yugoslavia, as well as unrest in parts of central Europe and the states of the former Soviet Union.

However, there were some positive developments, he said. Notably, the single European market is working, the Maastricht Treaty has proven to be politically acceptable, European exchange rates have regained stability, and the European Community has adopted a common position on the Uruguay Round of trade talks.

On the last issue, he pointed out that the EC Council of Ministers wanted "a clarification, not a renegotiation" of the Blair House agreement with the United States on agriculture.

Mr. Barre emphasised however, that agriculture was not the only important issue for the EC. Market access trade in services, protection of intellectual property rights and the enforcement of world trade rules also mattered. The EC wants "a global and balanced solution", he said.

Japan

EC Representative on Relationship With APEC

OW1711041793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0333 GMT 17 Nov 93

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—As leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum are assembling for high-level talks in Seattle, the 12-nation European Community is trying to forge a "working relationship" with APEC, its Tokyo representative says. "We wish to establish some kind of relationship, some kind of working relationship with APEC," said Jean-Pierre Leng, head of the delegation of the Commission of the European Community (EC).

Making a pitch for close ties with the world's fastest growing economic areas with more than two billion people, he said in an interview, "We do have a very intense economic relationship with that region." The 12-nation EC is not represented at the APEC ministerial and informal summit in Seattle but Leng said dialogue with Japan on APEC issues is important.

Asked if there will be any post-APEC talks between the EC and Japan, Leng replied, "absolutely, absolutely."

"The community is very pleased with the position taken by Japan," which supports the EC's objective of having a working relationship with APEC, EC Ambassador Leng said. "I find Japan in that respect very forthcoming."

Leng, a former head of the EC delegation to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, said the EC is not seeking membership in APEC but its ties to the Singapore-based forum are justified because of active foreign investment in North America, Japan and other Asian countries. Furthermore, he said, the EC's trade with Southeast Asia alone is growing at an annual rate of 9 percent.

In Seattle, APEC ministers are expected to formally decide on creation of a trade and investment committee, a development with which Leng said the EC hopes to associate itself.

Leng also expressed a desire for EC consultations with APEC member countries on such topics as transportation policy, telecommunications and standardization.

Commenting on a recent visit to Japan by EC External Economic Relations Commissioner Leon Brittan, Leng said Brittan's talks with Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and other members of his cabinet were "very encouraging." Hosokawa and other ministers "all indicated their full commitment to the successful outcome of the Uruguay Round" of multilateral trade talks, Leng said, adding Japanese leaders also had "full understanding" of the risks of the round's failure.

In his Tokyo talks, Brittan had called on Japan to open up its rice market to help bring the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion.

Leng said, "We are not looking for a market share. We are looking for Japan to open up to the world."

A former deputy chief of the EC mission in Washington, Leng expressed hope that the U.S. House of Representatives would pass the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). He said the EC backs NAFTA "provided it is compatible with GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)," under whose auspices all major postwar trade liberalization pacts have been negotiated.

"If it were to fail, I think it would be a pity," Leng added.

'Sources': Tokyo Agrees To Open Rice Market

OW1711103193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1022 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—Japan has reached a basic agreement to lift its ban on rice imports by accepting a tariffication proposal in global trade talks, government sources told KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Wednesday [17 November].

The agreement, reached in talks with the United States, calls on Japan to convert the ban into tariffs after a six-year moratorium, the sources said. It also requires Tokyo to allow minimum access to its rice market of 4 to 8 percent of consumption during the moratorium instead of the 3 to 5 percent proposed by Arthur Dunkel, former director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

'Basic Agreement' Reached

OW1711120893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—Japan has reached a basic agreement with the United States to accept a proposal put forward in global trade talks that would force it to lift its ban on rice imports, government sources told KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Wednesday [17 November].

The agreement marks a departure from Tokyo's long-standing policy of rejecting the so-called tariffication proposal, a key element in the ongoing Uruguay Round of global trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is expected to make a final decision on the liberalization of the rice market as early as later this month as he has pledged to do his best to bring the round to a successful conclusion by the December 15 deadline, they said.

The bilateral accord calls on Japan to delay accepting the tariffication proposal for six years and requires it to decide on whether to convert the rice import ban into tariffs after the six-year moratorium, the sources said. During the grace period, Japan will allow minimum foreign access to its rice market of 4 to 8 percent of total consumption instead of the 3 to 5 percent proposed by Arthur Dunkel, former chief of GATT, they said.

The accord also calls for country-by-country import quotas, apparently designed to help U.S. rice exporters better compete with cheaper rice from Thailand and other rice exporting countries. It also stipulates that rice exporters are obliged to supply rice to Japan, reflecting fears that rice imports could fall drastically in times of poor harvests abroad.

Japan so far has strongly opposed any plan to open its rice market, saying that it must secure self-sufficiency in the staple food and demanding that rice be exempted from the tariffication proposal.

Trade Framework Talks Focus on Business Customs

OW1711125093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1214 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—Japan and the United States held talks in Tokyo Wednesday [17 November] on Japanese business custom such as placing priority on long business relationships over short-term profits, which the U.S. says works as a trade barrier, Trade Ministry officials said.

The talks were held as part of the two countries' ongoing efforts to create a new framework for bilateral trade. It was the first working-level session on this aspect of harmonizing economic activities, the officials at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said.

Negotiators are aiming to reach an agreement by July next year. However, they ended the first round simply by pointing to the factors which each side considers problematic, according to the officials.

The U.S. asked about progress in the voluntary import-expansion program announced by about 100 Japanese corporations in January 1992 when George Bush, then U.S. President, visited Japan.

The Japanese side said that discussing the specific plans of private companies was not appropriate for an occasion like the working-level session. Instead, the Japanese negotiators suggested discussing import-expansion programs pushed by such organizations as the Japan External Trade Organization, the ministry officials said.

Satellite Lets Officials Join U.S. Hearing

OW1711043293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0351 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—Japanese officials Wednesday [17 November] took part in a Trans-Pacific U.S. congressional public hearing on Japan's plutonium and environmental policies via satellite. It was the first time that participants in Japan had been connected by satellite to a hearing in Washington. Last year, a satellite was used in a hearing with Russian officials and this summer a linkup was made with the European Community.

Satsuki Eda, director general of the Science and Technology Agency, and Wakako Hironaka, chief of the Environment Agency, took part in the hearing with the House of Representatives Science, Space and Technology Committee, chaired by U.S. Congressman George Brown.

The linkup was arranged by Kazuo Aichi, an executive of the political party Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] in the northern Japanese city of Sendai, which has sister-city relations with Brown's constituency in California.

Discussion in the hearing focused on continued U.S.-Japan cooperation in science and technology amid political changes occurring in Japan.

Eda said the fundamental policies of the new government in Tokyo will follow those of the previous administration, adding Japan would also continue international cooperation in a number of projects, including a manned space station.

Eda also asked for U.S. understanding of Japan's use of plutonium, mentioning the use of nuclear fuel recycling in nuclear energy production as a countermeasure to global warming, which is brought about by carbon dioxide.

Brown said U.S.-Japan dialogue on nuclear issues, including Japan's use of plutonium, should be promoted.

Hironaka suggested that technology for an electric car will soon be available and governments should take measures toward putting the technology on the market.

Komeito Members Protest Parachute Training

OW1511092793 Naha NHK Television in Japanese 0317 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News" program]

[Text] On 9 November, when the U.S. military conducted a parachute training exercise over Yomitan village, a paratrooper was surrounded by local residents after landing. The Komeito Okinawa Prefectural headquarters has reacted to the incident by asking the prefectural office to urge the U.S. military to stop parachute training, which, it says, could endanger local residents.

The reaction followed the parachute training conducted over Yomitan auxiliary airfield on 9 November. Strong winds forced a marine paratrooper to land near a road in the U.S. military facility which is also used by local people. As soon as he landed, local residents who were holding a parachute training protest rally near the training area surrounded the paratrooper and asked his name.

Following this, Komeito Okinawa Prefectural Headquarters Chairman Shiraho and other members visited the prefectural office today and called on Governor's Office Executive Director Takayama to urge the U.S. military authorities strongly to stop the training. They stressed their belief that it had become apparent yet again that there was a strong possibility the training would endanger local residents and preschool children.

Executive Director Takayama said the prefectural office would eventually ask the U.S. military to stop the training after looking into the cause of the incident.

Ceremony Held for Peacekeepers in Mozambique

OW1711051793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—A ceremony was held at the Defense Agency on Wednesday [17 November] to commemorate the formation of a second contingent of Japanese peacekeepers to be dispatched next week to Mozambique.

Defense Agency Director General Keisuke Nakanishi urged the 48-member Self-Defense Forces (SDF) peacekeeping contingent to carry out their humanitarian tasks in Mozambique with distinction.

The team is scheduled for dispatch to the southeastern African nation Monday to relieve a 48-member team sent there last May to carry out transport control duties in the U.N. peacekeeping operation. The first contingent is due back in Japan in early December.

The government decided at a cabinet meeting Friday to extend the stay of Japanese peacekeepers in Mozambique until July 1994, eight months beyond the original November deadline. The decision followed a U.N. Security Council resolution earlier this month to extend the stay of the 6,500-strong peacekeeping mission in Mozambique until next April.

Japan will keep the SDF unit there three months longer than the planned U.N. withdrawal date as the contingent could be delayed because it is in charge of transportation. In total, Japan has sent 53 SDF personnel to the country. Five officers serving on the commanding staff of the U.N. operation will stay another six months.

DA Director Urges Review of Peacekeeping Law

OW1711093893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0928 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—Defense Agency [DA] Director General Keisuke Nakanishi on Wednesday [17 November] urged an early review of Japan's U.N. Peacekeeping Cooperation Law, saying, "What is common sense for Japan is not so for the rest of the world."

Nakanishi made the remarks to reporters after a ceremony commemorating the formation of a new 48-member contingent of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to be dispatched shortly to Mozambique to relieve an SDF transport corps there now. "It cannot be said that the Peacekeeping Cooperation Law is perfect," the state minister said. "It has aspects in which what is common sense for Japan is not so for the rest of the world."

Nakanishi particularly advocated revision of the provisions of the present law relating to the use of weapons and the right of command. He said the right to decide when circumstances necessitate the use of firearms should be vested with the commanding officer as in the case of other countries, not with each individual soldier as it is now in Japan's case.

The present law allows individual soldiers to use their weapons only when they deem a particular situation life-threatening. In Diet deliberations leading up to enactment of the law, it was suggested that allowing commanding officers to decide when to fire might be unconstitutional.

The defense chief said it should further be clarified as to how Japan's insistence on the right to decide autonomously what conditions merit a withdrawal of its forces corresponds with the command of the United Nations. He said that if Japan were to pull its forces out of a U.N. peacekeeping operation on its own volition, it would be frowned upon and spoil the country's future participatory efforts.

Furthermore, Nakanishi said, the law should [be] changed to widen the scope of discretion in deciding whether to enlarge the size of a SDF corps to be dispatched abroad.

Government: Women From PRC Allowed To Remain

OW1711111493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1031 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—The government decided to allow five Japanese women who refuse to return to China to live in Japan, Health and Welfare Ministry officials said Wednesday [17 November].

The women, aged 67 to 77, were stranded in northeastern China at the end of World War II and have been visiting Japan since October 14 at the invitation of a Japanese volunteer group supporting war-displaced Japanese women and orphans. They were scheduled to leave Japan on November 1 with 12 other Japanese women. But at Narita Airport the five refused to board a flight bound for Beijing.

After their refusal, the ministry accommodated them at a special facility in Tokorozawa, Saitama Prefecture. All five have lost their Chinese husbands and their family members in China are not opposed to them living in Japan, according to the officials.

The government has decided to repatriate the estimated 1,800 war- displaced Japanese women in China over next few years at their will, but ministry officials had tried to persuade the five women to return to China this time because they were only making a temporary visit.

The women refused, saying they will never be able to come to Japan again if they returned to China.

Tokyo has already informed Beijing about the acceptance of the five women, officials said.

In early September, 12 other war-displaced Japanese women flew to Japan from China to ask Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa for repatriation. They are currently in the Tokorozawa facility.

Export-Import Bank Signs Accord With Latvia

OW1711110793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1042 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan signed an agreement Wednesday [17 November] to extend a yen-denominated untied loan worth 35 million dollars to Latvia. The loan is part of a 100 million dollar financial assistance package the Japanese Government announced in September 1992 to help the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The loan is to be provided together with the World Bank, bank officials said. Latvia is expected to use the loan to import daily necessities and energy resources, they said.

Growth of Merchandise Trade Surplus Decreases

OW1611114093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0918 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Japan's merchandise trade surplus in October increased from a year before for the 34th consecutive month, but its growth margin continued to decline, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday [16 November]. The customs-cleared trade surplus in the reporting month came to 11.01 billion dollars before adjustment for seasonal factors, up 1.7 percent from a year before. The rise followed a gain of 3.8 percent in September, 6.7 percent in August and 28.2 percent in July. The pace of growth has been steadily declining, a Finance Ministry official said, noting the yen's appreciation against the dollar in the recent past has produced "significant effects" on Japan's trade balance. The yen's value against the U.S. currency in October was 14.4 percent higher than a year before, he said. Export growth came to a halt, while imports of manufactured goods increased on the strong yen, an economist at Fuji Research Institute said.

During the reporting month, Japan's overall exports totaled 31.41 billion dollars, up 1.2 percent for the eighth running year-to-year monthly rise, while imports amounted to 20.40 billion dollars, up 0.9 percent for the eighth straight yearly gain.

The October exports were the fifth largest for any month and the biggest for any October while the imports were the 12th largest for any month and the third biggest for any October, the ministry official said. The trade surplus for the month was the sixth biggest for any month and the largest ever for the month of October, he added.

Japan registered an unadjusted surplus of 5.21 billion dollars in its merchandise trade with the United States in October, up 5.4 percent from a year earlier. It was the 19th consecutive month that Tokyo scored a black ink figure with the United States.

Exports to the U.S. increased 3.0 percent for the 11th consecutive monthly gain while imports from the U.S. edged up 0.2 percent, the eighth straight monthly gain. U.S.-bound shipments of semiconductors rose but autos declined. Imports from the U.S. rose for semiconductors, electronic parts and clothing but fell for aircraft and autos, the official said.

In its trade with the European Community (EC), Japan produced a surplus of 2.07 billion dollars, dropping 26.3 percent for the ninth consecutive month. Exports declined 12.9 percent but imports edged up 1.9 percent. Exports to the EC grew for semiconductors but decreased for autos and visual equipment. Imports from the EC advanced for autos and organic chemicals but went down for clothing and chemicals for industrial use.

Japan posted a trade surplus of 4.1 billion dollars with other Asian countries, up 4.7 percent, the ministry said. By products, Japan's exports of ships and semiconductors surged on an all-country basis.

In contrast, exports of automobiles and visual equipment dropped sharply. Among import items, lumber, wooden products and clothing showed large increases. Big drops were registered for such imports as crude oil and petroleum products.

The Finance Ministry said Japan's trade surplus in terms of yen aggregated 1,165.64 billion yen in October, down 11.2 percent from a year before. The yen-valued black ink fell for the third consecutive month, the ministry official said. He said the dollar-valued trade surplus continued its uptrend with the lingering effects of the J-curve. That means a rise in the value of the yen first boosts Japan's surplus in terms of dollars before a rise in prices of exports and a decline in import prices eventually cuts exports and increase imports.

Yukio Yambe, an economist at Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, said J-curve effects are still valid. He said he expects Japan's trade surplus to start falling next year. In terms of volume, the trade imbalance improved due to the stronger yen, he said.

In October, Japan's overall exports in terms of volume dropped 6.2 percent from a year before while imports rose 3.0 percent. It is only a matter of time before the imbalance improves in dollar- based value, Yambe said.

First Survey Results on Foreign Workers Issued

OW1611104093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0813 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Over half of all foreigners in Japan are employed by small and medium-sized firms, and 64 percent work in the manufacturing industry, the Labor Ministry said Tuesday [16 November] in its first survey on foreign labor. It said there were 59,431 people newly employed in the past year, while the number of people who terminated job contracts was 42,754.

The numbers suggest that the employment adjustment measures which many Japanese companies are taking to weather the current business slump have not really affected foreign employees, the ministry added.

The ministry estimates that foreign workers in Japan top about 600,000 at present, accounting for more than 1 percent of the nation's overall work force. Of the total, about half are illegal workers, 200,000 are employed by Japanese companies, and 100,000 are artists, entertainers and other freelance workers.

In order to assure stable employment and adequate working conditions for these people, the ministry decided to conduct an annual survey by sending questionnaires to employers across the nation, it said.

In the first survey this year, it obtained replies from a total of 11,624 business operators, who employ a total of 96,258 foreigners as of June 1 this year. The survey does not include Koreans, who have permanent residence in Japan, as foreign workers.

The number of workers covered in the first survey accounts for about a half of the estimated 200,000 foreigners employed by companies, of whom 66.4 percent are men, the ministry said.

By region, 63 percent are from Latin America, 16.5 percent from east Asia, 6.9 percent from Southeast Asia, and 9.6 percent from North America and Europe. About 62 percent are employed as production line workers, and 14.5 percent as specialists, engineers and administrators.

Nearly a quarter of the total are working in Tokyo, while Aichi Prefecture has 7.8 percent and Shizuoka Prefecture 5.6 percent. The workers in the prefectures are mainly at automobile-related factories, the ministry said.

Reportage on Political Reform Bills Continues

Diet Panel Approves Bills

OW1611100393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0939 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—A government-proposed political reform package cleared its first hurdle in a Diet committee vote Tuesday [16 November] evening, but the opposition vowed not to give up demands for amendments in upcoming sessions. The House of Representatives Special Committee on Political Reform approved the package of four bills with a stand-up vote following final deliberations that started in the late afternoon.

The bills need to clear three other parliamentary votes—firstly in a lower chamber plenary session and then on the House of Councillors' floor—before being placed onto the statute books.

Committee Chairman Hajime Ishii announced the passage of the bills immediately after legislators from the seven coalition parties stood up to show their support.

The approval capped five years of efforts by the Japanese political community to legislate the introduction of a single-seat constituency system or one combining a single-seat distribution with proportional representation, along with stiffer antigraft laws. The bills involve a complete redesigning of the mechanism for selecting members of the lower chamber of the two-chamber parliament.

The latest version of the seat distribution bill—partially amended following top-level talks between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Liberal Democratic Party President Yohei Kono—calls for replacing the current 511 multiseat electoral districts with a combination of 274 single-seat districts and 226 seats chosen through proportional representation.

The LDP has called for 300 districts to have directly elected single seats and 171 seats decided through proportional representation.

The package looks certain to be passed through the chamber's plenary session Thursday—before Hosokawa's departure for Seattle on Friday to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum meeting—in view of the stable majority of the seven-party coalition, Diet sources said.

The package will go to the House of Councillors for approval after clearing the lower chamber, coalition officials said.

The coalition hopes to secure the package's passage through the upper chamber by December 15, the end of the current Diet session, in view of Hosokawa's pledge to take political responsibility if he did not secure passage by year-end, they said.

'Gist' of Reform Bills

OW1611101193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0941 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—The following is a gist of the political reform bills approved Tuesday [16 November] by the House of Representatives' ad hoc committee on political reform:

—The number of seats in the lower house will be reduced from 511 to 500. Of the 500, 274 seats are to be allocated for single-seat districts and 226 seats for proportional representation.
—Each voter would be able to cast two votes, one for an individual candidate in a single-seat district and one for a political party in the nationwide proportional representation system.
—Door-to-door campaigning by candidates would be permitted from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.
—Donations to individual politicians would be banned.
—Private businesses and other organized groups would be allowed to make donations to political parties or their fund-raising bodies.
—Sources of donations exceeding 50,000 yen a year would have to be disclosed to ensure transparency of fund flows.
—A total of 30.9 billion yen, or 250 yen per Japanese citizen, would be offered from state coffers to political parties.
—An independent body would be set up under the prime minister's office to draw up the new electoral districts.

Opposition Vows Amendments

OW1611131493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—A government-proposed political reform package cleared its first hurdle in a Diet committee vote Tuesday [16 November] evening, prompting the vexed opposition to vow to secure its amendments in upcoming sessions. The House of Representatives Special Committee on Political Reform approved the package of four bills, following two and a half hours of debate that started around 4:00 P.M. [0700 GMT].

The bills still must clear three other parliamentary votes—one in a lower chamber plenary session and two on the House of Councillors' floor—before being placed onto the statute books.

Shortly after Tuesday's vote, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said he could not rest until the reform proposals clear the upper chamber, expressing concern over the fate of the bills in the upcoming parliamentary proceedings.

Committee Chairman Hajime Ishii told reporters, the vote Tuesday was "a landmark event. This law will change the direction of politics in Japan."

Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] President Yohei Kono told a news conference after the vote, "Our party still has work to accomplish in the upcoming (parliamentary) proceedings. We will make efforts to achieve genuine political reform."

Legislators from the Liberal Democratic Party and the Japanese Communist Party [JCP] remained seated during the vote, with some legislators folding their arms in a show of silent disapproval, while coalition party members stood up to show support of the bill.

The committee session came after the failure of two rounds of talks between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Liberal Democratic Party President Yohei Kono aimed at reaching a compromise. The first round began Monday evening and lasted into the early hours Tuesday and the second began at 10 A.M.

The Diet committee's passage of the reform proposals capped five years of efforts to introduce a single-seat constituency system or one combining single seat distribution with proportional representation, as well as stiffer antigraft laws.

The legislative efforts began in 1989 after former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita fell from grace after being implicated in the Recruit Cosmos Co. stock-for-favors scandal.

The coalition's reform proposals, similar to plans drawn up by the administration of ex-Premier Toshiki Kaifu, involve a complete redesign of the mechanism for selecting members of the powerful lower chamber of the two-chamber parliament.

The latest version of the seat distribution bill—amended following talks between Hosokawa and Kono—calls for replacing the current 511 multi-seat electoral districts with a combination of 274 single-seat districts and 226 seats chosen through proportional representation.

The LDP has called for an electoral system combining 300 single-seat constituencies with 171 seats decided through proportional representation. The LDP has blasted the coalition plan as a ploy to stir further defections of its legislators from the once-mighty party to the coalition side as LDP members would be forced to renounce their home constituencies due to the limited number of proposed single-seat districts.

Political analysts say the proposed bills would force the formerly ruling party to turn down requests from dozens of its incumbent and former legislators to run in their home constituencies, where they have spent years cultivating the goodwill of constituents.

LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori recently warned the bills might trigger a second LDP split following July's mass defections of LDP renegades, who later formed Shinseito and Sakigake, two key forces in the coalition.

The package looks certain to pass through the chamber's plenary session Thursday—before Hosokawa's departure for Seattle Friday to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit—due to the stable majority of the seven-party coalition, Diet sources said.

The coalition hopes to secure passage of the reform bills through the House of Councillors by December 15, the end of the current Diet session and Hosokawa's self-determined deadline. He earlier stated that if he failed to secure passage of the bills he would take political responsibility, an indication he would resign his post or call new elections.

The coalition says the bills will help clean up Japan's money-dominated politics by dissuading candidates from the same party to try to outspend rivals in multiseat constituencies.

Under the multiseat system—in which three to six seats are chosen from an electoral district—the same party often fields several candidates, prompting fierce competition and under-the-table donations in exchange for political favors. But the LDP and JCP say the coalition's reform proposals will produce even fiercer competition as candidates from different parties vie for a single-seat constituency—where only one seat is available—tempting candidates to step up vote-buying attempts.

LDP Leaders Urge Negative Votes

OW1611144293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1428 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—Veteran Liberal Democratic Party politician Takeo Nishioka hinted Tuesday [16 November] that some members of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party may vote Thursday for a government-proposed package of political reform bills. Nishioka, deputy head of a group of LDP legislators favoring political reform, said "most of our members supported the stand that we should not stamp out the flames of political reform."

The LDP leadership is currently calling on its members to cast negative votes against the government-proposed bills.

Nishioka was speaking to reporters after emerging from a general meeting of the reform-favoring group which comprises over 100 LDP Diet members and is headed by former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. Some 40 members attended the session.

Earlier in the day, the House of Representatives' Special Committee on Political Reform voted 20-19 to pass the four government-proposed bills. The bills call, among other things, for replacing the current 511-member multi-seat electoral system for the lower chamber with a combination of 274 single-seat districts and 226 seats filled by proportional representation. The full lower house is expected to vote on the bills Thursday and send them immediately to the second chamber, the House of Councillors.

Nishioka served as chairman of the LDP's decision-making Executive Council while Kaifu was LDP president and prime minister. Kaifu quit the post in 1991 shortly after the lower chamber killed a similar package of political reform bills.

Nishioka also suggested that he might defect from the LDP, saying, "A politician doesn't announce his resignation before taking the final steps."

'Various Moves' in LDP Viewed

OW1611150093 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1005 GMT 16 Nov 93

[From "News 7" program]

[Text] Prior to the session of the Special Committee on Political Reform, various moves were observed within the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and even the coalition member Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ].

The SDPJ held a meeting of Diet members before the committee session to reconfirm the party's stance to support the revised political reform package proposed by the coalition government. At the meeting, the SDPJ leadership replaced two committee members who were expected to vote against the coalition's political reform package. The two representatives—including Sukio Iwatare—demanded the party leadership allow them to vote against the bills. Councillor Osamu Yatabe and other SDPJ upper house members protested against SDPJ Chairman Tomiichi Murayama for acknowledging the revision of the bills without the approval of rank-and-file SDPJ members.

The LDP also replaced five committee members—including Representative Takeo Nishioka—who expressed their intention to vote for the coalition's proposal.

[Begin recording of Representative Teruhiko Mashiko, one of five LDP Diet members kept from the ballot-taking] No one can obtain the best answer from negotiations. I wanted to vote for the bills revised by the coalition government since they looked acceptable. However, the party leadership has authority to reshuffle committee members if some go against the party policy. [end recording]

The LDP General Council also met before the Special Committee on Political Reform session, and many members opposed the party leadership's decision not to boycott the session.

LDP reformists are beginning to speak out in support of the coalition's political reform package, and antireformists are reacting strongly against such moves. Opinions of LDP Diet members split on political reform debates.

While the LDP kept five Diet members from voting at the lower house committee, few LDP Diet members have sympathy for the coalition's reform plan. A younger LDP Diet member's group entitled the Association To Create a New LDP adopted a resolution against the party's restriction on votes, calling for individual Diet member's free votes at the lower house plenary session. It is believed more than ten LDP lower house members are likely to vote for the coalition's reform package at the 18 November plenary session, and some may break with the LDP following the vote. On the other hand, some antireformists insist the party must immediately dismiss those who are expected to vote with the coalition. The

LDP's internal discord is becoming obvious as both reformists and antireformists clarify their positions.

Kono Explains Party's Opposition

OW1611134493 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1049 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Statement by LDP President Yohei Kono on the lower house's approval of the political reform package; recorded earlier this evening at LDP headquarters in Tokyo]

[Text] The committee has concluded its deliberations on political reform. I believe the public will understand that the Liberal Democratic party [LDP], as an opposition party, dealt appropriately with the political reform bills compared with Diet debates in the past.

We did not go for dilatory measures, and we paid much respect to local opinions brought up at public hearings sponsored by the LDP. Since the lower house learned a lot from these hearings, I feel the LDP played an important role in political reform.

To my sorrow, the LDP's bills were killed at the committee, and the government's proposal does not adequately reflect our opinion. Under such circumstances, we could not vote for the government's political reform package.

Yet I believe the LDP still has much to do on this subject. We would like to keep trying our best to promote genuine political reform.

Urges LDP Unity in Voting

OW1711082993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Yohei Kono on Wednesday [17 November] called for party unity in voting against the coalition government's political reform bills at a plenary session of the House of Representatives on Thursday.

The leader of the main opposition party made the call as rumors flew that more than 10 LDP lawmakers are expected to vote for the government's package of political reform bills in the full lower house session.

Three LDP lower house members—Teruhiko Mashiko, Goji Sakamoto and Shigeru Ishiba—told reporters they will vote for the government-proposed bills. Top LDP executives held a meeting Wednesday evening and confirmed that the party will require its lawmakers to vote for its own bills and against the government bills.

The four reform bills cleared a committee stage in the lower house Tuesday, with the LDP opposing.

The bills are likely to clear the lower house, where the seven-party coalition retains a majority, on Thursday, a day before Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is due to leave for a Pacific-area summit in the United States. They will then go to the House of Councillors, and the government hopes to have them passed by the end of the year. The current Diet session ends December 15, but could be extended. A group of young turks of the LDP visited Hosokawa on Wednesday and asked that members of both the ruling and opposition parties be allowed to vote as they wish on the bills and not along party lines. One of the group, Shokei Arai, told reporters that Hosokawa said parliamentarians should act according to their own will and he will instruct the coalition parties to consider the request.

Hosokawa, however, told reporters later, "It is a matter for each party. I will not tell them what to do in my capacity (as prime minister)."

The same LDP group also asked Kono and Secretary General Yoshiro Mori to drop the party decision that members must vote against the government bills and for alternative LDP-proposed bills.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP), the largest force in the seven-party coalition, also decided Tuesday that all its lawmakers should vote for the government-sponsored bills. But Koken Nosaka, chairman of the SDP's Diet Affairs Committee, told reporters that three or four party members may vote against the government version because they disagree with changes in the electoral system bill.

Tuesday's passing of the government bills at the Special Committee on Political Reform came after Hosokawa and Kono failed to reach a compromise at a two-hour session from late Monday night to early Tuesday morning. The government-sponsored bills—amended following the talks between Hosokawa and Kono—call for replacing the current 511 multiple-seat electoral districts for the lower house with a combination of 274 single-seat districts and 226 seats chosen through proportional representation.

Hosokawa, who took office in August, has indicated he will resign if the bills are not passed by the end of the year. Hosokawa's two LDP predecessors, Toshiki Kaifu and Kiichi Miyazawa, were forced to step down following their failure to pass political reform bills.

LDP, SDPJ Make Unity Efforts

OW1711142793 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1003 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Video report by unidentified NHK correspondent]

[Text] At a meeting held today of the Political Reform Promotion Parliamentarian League composed of proreform Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] members, views were increasingly expressed that the members should support the government-proposed political reform bills since it is apparent the LDP-proposed bills will be rejected, saying the passage of the government-proposed bills in the lower house will make great progress toward promoting political reform. Former Prime Minister

Kaifu, who serves as chairman of the league, asked LDP President Kono to allow LDP members to vote on own their discretion without the party restrictions. Another group of LDP members, including Seiichi Ota, told Kono not to force party members to observe the party's decision to oppose the bills.

Members of a study group on democratic politics composed of LDP members who are cautious about the reform bills, including Yoshinobu Shimamura, asked party Secretary-General Yoshiro Mori to strictly punish members who vote for the government's bills at the lower house session tomorrow.

Kono and other party executives met this evening to discuss ways of dealing with the issue. They decided the party members should take concerted action by voting for the LDP-proposed bills and opposing the government-proposed bills. They reconfirmed that voting for the government's bills would run counter to the party's decision.

Among ruling parties, the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] decided to bind its members by the party's decision to support the government's bills. The party decided to reconfirm its decision at a meeting to be held tomorrow prior to the plenary session of the lower house.

Representatives of party members who are actively promoting the passage of the government's bills asked SDPJ Chairman Murayama this afternoon to demonstrate his leadership by bringing the party together. They urged the SDPJ leadership to punish SDPJ members who vote against the government's bills, with the possibility of their being asked to leave the party. It is expected about five members of the SDPJ—including Sukio Iwatare and Yoshimi Mino, who expressed at a party meeting yesterday their intention of voting against the government's bills—will vote against the government-proposed bills or abstain. For that reason, the SDPJ executives are trying to persuade them to change their minds.

Ministry Denies Stock-Buying Entity Plans

OW1511090793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 15 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito denied on Monday [15 November] that his ministry is considering creating a stock-buying entity to help the stock market out of the prolonged slump. The Finance Ministry has no such a plan, Saito told a press conference.

Stock prices should be basically decided by the market's supply-demand relations, he said, citing the lingering uncertainty over prospects for corporate earnings as one of the major reasons behind the current slump. Saito's comments came after the 225-issue Nikkei stock average slipped below 18,000 briefly on Monday.

On the recent drop in the dollar's value against the yen, Saito said various speculative factors may have affected the currency market ahead of a series of political events, including U.S. congressional voting on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on Wednesday.

Panel Leaves Tax Cut Decision to Politicians

OW1511133493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1309 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 15 KYODO—A government advisory panel on taxation leaves the issue of whether and when to cut income taxes open to a political decision, according to the draft of a final report. The report by the Tax Commission does not include a phrase contained in a preliminary report that "there is an opinion that a tax cut should be carried out in advance by issuing 'bridge' bonds," panel sources said.

The deletion of the phrase alludes to opposition from some in Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's coalition government to the inclusion of a proposal on the scale and timing of an income tax cut in the final report, the sources said.

Private economists say a major income tax cut is the only remaining card to play in pulling Japan's economy out of its prolonged slump after a series of pump-priming measures were adopted. Some insist that such a tax cut should be implemented in exchange for a future raise in the consumption tax, but the Finance Ministry has been reluctant to cut income taxes at all.

Tax Comission Chairman Kan Kato will present the final report to a plenary session of the commission on Tuesday [16 November] before submitting it to Hosokawa on Friday. Hosokawa has said he would respect the Tax Commission's recommendations.

Panel Advises Ministry To Raise Postal Charges

OW1611045493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0230 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—An advisory panel to the posts and telecommunications minister said Tuesday [16 November] the ministry should raise postal charges in order to cut accumulating deficit in the postal business. The Postal Services Council submitted the report to Takenori Kanzaki, posts and telecommunications minister, recommending that the cost of stamps be raised from the current 41 yen to 50 yen for postcards and from 62 yen to 80 yen for letters.

The ministry will raise postal charges around January 20 next year in line with the panel's recommendations, ministry sources said. The increase will be the first for 13 years.

The report said postal charge hikes should be allowed, pointing out that the postal service's accumulated deficit would reach 177.7 billion yen at the end of the current business year. The panel also recommended that the postal charge for printed matter such as newspapers and magazines be raised by 56 percent.

White Paper: Increase Public Transport Funds

OW1611013293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0101 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—More resources must be given to the public transport system so as to achieve a balance with private cars, a white paper approved by the cabinet Tuesday [16 November] said. The transport white paper for 1993 said support from central and municipal governments is essential to make improvements, adding transport systems such as railroads require huge sums of money in order to acquire land.

Transport problems are especially severe in large cities and the system is not keeping pace with society's needs, it said. An increasing number of people are preferring to use both cars and public transport rather than relying on one or the other amid congested traffic conditions and rising environmental concerns.

The report called for vigorous efforts to make it easier for the elderly and the handicapped to use public transport, and also to ease the misery of commuting during rush hours.

Minister Denies Fiscal Economic Measures Plan

OW1711094493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0934 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 17 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Wednesday [17 November] his ministry has no plans for further steps to boost the sagging economy, downplaying another cabinet member's comments. Saying that Economic Planning Agency Chief Manae Kubota was expressing a personal opinion when she said the day before that further measures were possible, Fujii repeated at a regular news conference that the Finance Ministry has no such plans.

Acknowledging that the economy "has entered an extremely difficult stage," Fujii repeated that the government wants to "steadily implement" measures undertaken so far.

Denying a report that the ministry will submit its plan for a second supplementary budget to the Diet on December 26, he said, "the Finance Ministry has not decided anything at all." He also denied reports of plans to establish meetings of finance ministers within the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, saying he has received no such official notice.

Fujii said he presumes the United States is considering such a setup and that the idea may be aired at the current APEC talks in Seattle, but that "we have received absolutely nothing from America" about such ministerial meetings.

The finance minister also denied that any decision has been reached about when to offer shares of the privatized Japan Tobacco Inc. (JT) to the public.

"Absolutely nothing has been decided" about listing JT shares, he said in the wake of the rocky listing of east Japan Railway Co. (JR East). "It's a blank slate."

Hosokawa Approves Prosecutor General Nomination

OW1611051293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0427 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 16 KYODO—A senior ranking prosecutor who commanded the investigation into the Lockheed payoff scandal will be named as the new public prosecutor general, government officials said Tuesday [16 November]. Yusuke Yoshinaga, 61, superintendent public prosecutor of the Tokyo High Public Prosecutors Office, will replace Yasutaka Okamura, who is retiring at the age of 64.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa approved the personnel reshuffle as proposed by Justice Minister Akira Mikazuki in a meeting Tuesday morning. The cabinet will formally approve the nomination in mid-December.

Yoshinaga worked for more than 13 years in the special investigation department of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office and has played an active role in investigating many bribery cases involving politicians, including the Recruit stocks-for-favor scandal in the 1980s. He was in charge of investigating the Lockheed scandal in which then Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka was arrested in 1976.

Yoshinaga has served as chief of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office, the Hiroshima High Public Prosecutors Office and the Osaka High Public Prosecutors Office since becoming a prosecutor in 1955.

North Korea

North Delegation Denounces Foal Eagle Exercise

SK1711003593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2210 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Statement issued on 16 November in Pyongyang by the North side's delegation to the working delegates' contact for the exchange of top-level special envoys of the North and South on the ROK-U.S. military exercises—read by announcer]

[Text] These days, the South Korean authorities, despite strong protests from the people at home and abroad, are staging large-scale nuclear war exercises, thus creating a grave obstacle [omjunghan changae] to the North-South dialogue and deliberately leading the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

According to a report, since 15 November the South Korean authorities have been staging a large-scale nuclear war exercise codenamed Foal Eagle-93 aimed at a surprise attack on the northern half of the Republic with U.S. troops occupying South Korea. In addition, they are staging a provocative [tobalchogin] Hwarang military exercise on a large-scale. The puppet Defense Ministry on 16 November even perpetrated military adventure by ordering the entire Army to be poised for a special alert.

Not long ago, the South Korean defense minister raved about not hesitating to take military countermeasures [kunsajok taeung] by finding fault with our nonexistent nuclear development. At the so-called South Korean-U.S. annual Security Consultative Meeting, he agreed not to suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise.

This time, the South Korean authorities are again perpetrating large-scale nuclear war exercises aimed at attacking us. This is recklessly playing with fire [puljangnan] and constitutes a grave provocation aimed at halting contacts and dialogue between the North and South, rendering the situation on the Korean peninsula extremely strained and destroying peace.

The North side's delegation to the working-level delegates' contact for the exchange of top-level special envoys of the North and South solemnly denounce the South Korean authorities' maneuvers—running amok in perpetrating a massive adventurous military exercise with outside forces—by branding them as premeditated provocative acts [kyehoekchogin tobalhaengwi] that entirely reject dialogue between the North and South and are aimed at driving the nation into a nuclear holocaust by waging a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula.

Dialogue and nuclear war exercises can never stand together. Furthermore, it is as clear as daylight that the exchange of top-level envoys to discuss and resolve the pending issues, including denuclearization, between the North and South cannot make smooth headway when one side of the dialogue stages large-scale military exercises to attack the other side with nuclear weapons.

For this reason, we, during the three rounds of the North-South working-level contact, demanded that the South side express a clear attitude to suspend the nuclear war exercise, and repeatedly urged the South side to first express its position on suspending the Foal Eagle joint military exercise.

Even when the fourth round of working-level delegates' contact could not be held as planned due to outburst by the military authority of South Korea, our side, through a telephone message and a press statement, gave understandable advise to the South side to persuade them to become our trustful dialogue partner by renouncing the outside force-dependent way of thinking.

If the South Korean authorities are really interested in resolving the nation's important issues, including the denuclearization issue, through the exchange of special envoys of the top leaders of the North and the South, they should have sincerely apologized for not holding the North-South dialogue, which was resumed after several months, for the exchange of special envoys and should have taken due measures so that the suspended working-level contact for the exchange of special envoys could be held at the earliest possible date.

Nevertheless, the South Korean authorities, while more tenaciously seeking the so-called international cooperative system in a bid to harm fellow countrymen, again staged a nuclear war exercise to attack us with outside forces. Thus, they themselves have again made it clear that they are not interested in resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula through dialogue.

Not only did the South Korean authorities not respond to our repeated demands for suspending nuclear war exercises at the working-level contacts for the exchange of special envoys, but also the person called national defense minister clamored that he would not hesitate to use military countermeasures [kunsajok taeung]. Thus, they have revealed the real aim they are seeking through acts.

What the South Korean authorities want is neither detente on the Korean peninsula, nor its peaceful reunification. What they want is only confrontation, war, and division.

The South Korean authorities should assume responsibility before the nation for suspending dialogue through the national defense minister's absurd remarks and for leading North-South relations to the brink [kukhanjom] of confrontation and war by creating more grave obstacles [omjunghan changae] to North-South dialogue through the staging of a nuclear war exercise at this time.

As has already been clarified in the press statement by our vice minister of the People's Armed Forces, we are ready for dialogue and for war. No one can dare to provoke our people, who treasure their dignity as their lives, and the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style, which are both firmly rallied as one around the party and the leader [suryong].

The South Korean authorities should clearly know that if they recklessly seek the road of war the only thing they can obtain is the end of the civilian-led government.

The South Korean authorities should unconditionally suspend the Foal Eagle-93 joint military exercise and the Hwarang exercise, which runs counter to the flow of the trend and the nation's aspiration, destroys dialogue, and disturbs peace.

If the South Korean authorities continue to advance along the adventurous road of nuclear war exercise, disregarding our warning, they will assume total responsibility for all consequences arising therefrom.

[Issued] 16 November 1993, Pyongyang

KCNA Reports Denunciation

SK1711044893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 17 Nov 93

["Provocation of War Will Lead to End of 'Civilian Government'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—"The South Korean authorities must know clearly that if they take the road of a reckless war, it will bring nothing but the doom of the 'civilian government'," warned the North side's delegation to the working-level contact for an exchange of top-level special envoys between the North and the South of Korea in a statement Tuesday [17 November].

The statement stressed that the South Korean authorities must unconditionally stop the "Foal Eagle 93" joint military exercises and "Hwarang" drill which wreck the dialogue and disturb peace, going against the trend of the times and the aspirations of the nation.

"If they continue to stage the adventurous nuclear war games in disregard of our warnings," it said, "they would be held entirely responsible for all the consequences therefrom."

Branding the moves of the South Korean authorities hell bent on the adventurous large-scale war exercises with outside forces as a premeditated provocative act intended to unleash a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula at any cost and thus plunge the nation into a nuclear holocaust, an act of totally denying the dialogue between the North and the South for detente and peaceful reunification, the statement bitterly denounced them.

The statement said:

The South Korean authorities have deadlocked the dialogue through the "defence minister's" blast that "military countermove would not be ruled out", raising a hue and cry over the fictitious "nuclear suspicion" of the North, and defiantly started the nuclear war games this time to lay more grave obstacles to the North-South dialogue, thus driving the North-South relations to the extremes of confrontation and war. They must be held responsible for it before the nation.

As already manifested clearly in a statement of the vice-minister of People's Armed Forces, we are fully prepared for both dialogue and war.

Nobody can dare provoke our people who are rallied around the party and the leader in one mind and value their dignity as their life and soul, and our socialism centred on the masses.

Radio Notes U.S. Response on Talks With U.S.

SK1611221393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] According to a report, U.S. State Department spokesman Mike McCurry hinted about the possibility of holding a third round of DPRK-U.S. talks.

In a weekly news briefing held on 12 November, he, answering questions regarding our nuclear issue, said: We took very careful note of the 11 November statement by First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu clarifying North Korea's position on the settlement of the nuclear issue. The first vice foreign minister's statement includes some positive elements such as North Korea's readiness to fully ensure the continuity of safeguards while the U.S.-North Korea talks continue.

He said: We welcome North Korea's stated willingness to pursue a settlement of the nuclear issue. We too are willing to work toward a comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue at a third round of talks on the basis of principles that have been set forth in the joint statements issued by the United States and North Korea.

The U.S. State Department spokesman pointed out: We do not exclude any possibility of holding the third round of talks. We hope that we will be able to fix the date for the third round of talks.

KCNA on U.S. Response

SK1711051393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 17 Nov 93

["U.S. State Department Spokesman on Possibility of Third Round of DPRK-U.S. Talks"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—Mike McCurry, spokesman for the State Department of the United States, deliberated on the "nuclear problem" of the DPRK at a weekly press briefing on November 12, according to a report.

He said:

"The State Department took very careful note of the Nov. 11 statement by North Korean First Vice-Minister Kang Sok-chu clarifying North Korea's position on the settlement of the nuclear issue.

"The first vice-minister's statement includes some positive elements such as North Korea's readiness to fully ensure the continuity of safeguards while the U.S.-North Korea talks continue.

"The United States welcomes North Korea's stated willingness to pursue a settlement of the nuclear issue.

"We too are willing to work toward a comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue at a third round of talks on the basis of principles that have been set forth in the joint statements issued by the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

He said that the United States had not ruled out the possibility of a third round of talks and that it looked towards scheduling it.

Commentary Calls South's President 'Traitor'

SK1711082893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Flunkyist Traitor Who Has Lost His Reason"]

[Text] In an interview with the U.S. LOS ANGELES TIMES on 14 November, Kim Yong-sam, the current South Korean ruler, made unreasonable and absurd remarks concerning the nuclear issue, North-South dialogue, and the withdrawal of foreign armed forces. In the interview, he said that outside forces should stay in South Korea even after reunification. This indicates that his remarks have reached the highest levels of demonstrating flunkyist, treacherous colors denying his identity as a Korean.

Our country was divided by outside forces. Obstructive maneuvers of outside forces have barred our country from being reunited for almost half a century. Everyone in South Korea who treasures national sovereignty and dignity insists on eliminating outside forces. How, then, can he, as a Korean, be so bold as to stress that outside forces should remain even after reunification?

Our country's reunification essentially envisages putting an end to domination and interference by outside forces and realizing national independence throughout the country. Therefore, it is self-evident that reunification cannot be accomplished under a situation in which South Korea is left to be dominated by outside forces. It is illogical for outside forces to remain in South Korea even after reunification. This theory amounts to total negation of reunification itself.

Those who retain the foreign Army in South Korea under the pretext of someone's threat are trying to maintain today's conditions of keeping the presence of outside forces in South Korea until even after reunification when no threat is posed within the nation. This shows that their allegations of a southward invasion are completely fabricated and that they are notorious puppets who cannot survive without the protection of the guns and bayonets of outside forces.

Kim Yong-sam is attempting to cover himself with a veil of nation by frequently using words such as the national soul and national self-dignity, but his actual deeds betray these words. His absurd remarks indicate that he has reached the point where he is so influenced by flunkyism and a mentality of relying on outside forces, that he is impervious to reason. In this regard, he is worse than previous military dictators.

Such a top-class flunkyist exists within the nation and even serves as the president of South Korea. This is a disgrace to the nation.

While demanding that we accept special inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency without any preconditions, Kim Yong-sam acted as though there was no intention to independently develop nuclear weapons.

It is self-evident that we cannot accept the attempt on special inspections upon us, which was motivated by an insidious plot to do harm to and stifle [mohae apsal] our Republic.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula does not concern our side which has neither the intention or capability to develop nuclear weapons, but South Korea where over 1,000 nuclear weapons are deployed and where the development of its own nuclear weapons is being accelerated.

Under the outside force's nuclear umbrella, South Korea's string of rulers have secretly accelerated the development of nuclear weapons and nuclear armament for a long time. Publicly stressing the importance of securing nuclear sovereignty, even the present civilian-led authorities have not discontinued nuclear weapons development. This is public knowledge [kongindoen sasil].

Confidential facts regarding the development of nuclear weapons have already been exposed in many ways. Nevertheless, if they think that they can deceive public opinion by simply negating the stark facts which the world is aware of, it is a great miscalculation.

In the 14 November interview, Kim Yong-sam urged us to come to the North-South dialogue with sincerity. He is brazen and arrogant to say such a thing.

South Korea's current ruling circles openly declared military countermeasures when a contact of working-level delegates for exchanging special envoys of the top-level authorities of the North and the South was held. Thus, they themselves rejected and stalemated dialogue.

On top of this, almost at the same time, they ostentatiously perpetrated such dangerous maneuvers of playing with fire aimed at northward invasion as Foal Eagle '93 joint military exercise, Hwarang, and Ssangyong with outside forces. Thus, they are straining the situation on the Korean peninsula extremely and casting a darker cloud over the future of dialogue.

They use words such as sincerity and urge. This is the same as a thief calling "stop thief."

Kim Yong-sam entered Chongwadae [presidential office] under the signboard of a civilian government. His acts, however, will show that the more he tries to find fault with others and makes absurd remarks to justify himself, losing his reasoning capabilities as a result of being intent on relying on outside forces, division, confrontation, and war, the more he will only expose himself as a political fraud and a brazen-faced man.

Whosoever takes the road of treason by running counter to the national aspiration and the trend of times, will not be able to avoid the stern judgment of history.

Daily Quotes From Kim Yong-sam Interview

SK1711052093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 17 Nov 93

["Rigmarole Revealing Flunkeyist, Traitorous Nature"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—South Korean ruler Kim Yong-sam, in an interview with the U.S. LOS ANGELES TIMES on November 14, raised the "nuclear problem" of the North again, "urging" that the "North should accept special inspection without preconditions" and approach North-South dialogue with sincerity.

Branding his utterance as one revealing his flunkeyist treacherous, nature which does not deserve a passing note, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

The South Korean rulers are not in a position nor entitled to talk about the "nuclear problem" of others, for they are the very criminals who have created a nuclear threat to the Korean peninsula by introducing nuclear weapons into South Korea. It is the height of folly and impudence for the South Korean puppets, who are not qualified to participate in the dialogue for the solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula and have no real power, to try to poke their nose even in the matter to be settled between the DPRK and the United States.

By the way, we cannot but take a serious note of the fact that in the interview, Kim Yong-sam let loose a poisonous jargon taking issue with the fellow countrymen, siding with outside forces who are trying to do harm to and emasculate the Korean nation. He said "if the North develops nuclear weapons, there will be a greater possibility of Japan too developing nuclear weapons".

What a disgusting traitor imbued with flunkeyism to the marrow he is is well borne out by his open statement that they cannot exist without outside forces, and the outside forces must dominate the Korean peninsula even after the reunification.

History and reality show that those who seek to maintain power and pursue their personal honor and luxury under the patronage of outside forces are very dangerous beings in the solution of the question of peace and reunification of the country.

Spokesman Urges Nullification of Ulsa Treaty

SK1711034393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry published the following press statement on 16 November upon the lapse of 88 years since the Japanese imperialists fabricated [nalcho] the Ulsa Five- point Treaty on November 17, 1905.

The statement of a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry:

November 17 marks the 88th anniversary of the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty fabricated by the Japanese imperialists.

The Japanese imperialists fabricated the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty of 1905 and, based on this, enforced colonial rule over Korea for nearly half a century, inflicting immeasurable misfortune and suffering upon the Korean people.

Recently, new materials such as the personal letter of Kojong, the emperor of old Korea, have been found, thus proving indisputably that the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty was illegal and invalid from the very beginning from both the historical point of view and in view of international law. The Japanese Government, however, is unwilling to admit this.

During his recent visit to South Korea, Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa did not mention a word about this matter but tried to clinch the history of the crime-woven past in which Japan had imposed untold misfortune and hardship upon the Korean people, with a few negligable, apologetic words on depriving Koreans of educational opportunities and forcing Koreans to obey the strange order to change their surnames.

This shows that the Japanese Government has not departed at all from the unjust argument of its predecessors at the prior Korea-Japan talks where treaties of the past were signed on a legal basis and came into force effectively. Whether or not it admits the invalidity of the old treaties like the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty which the Japanese imperialists had fabricated with a view to justifying their military occupation and illegal colonial rule over Korea is the touchstone which shows whether it intends to honestly atone for the Japanese imperialists' past crimes against Korea and break with the militarist past.

Ignoring the fundamental problem for the liquidation of the past [kwago chongsan] in Korea-Japan relations, how can the Japanese prime minister's statement of apology be seen as an honest one that will convince the Korean people? Furthermore, one cannot overlook [tougi kangwa halsu omnungosun] the fact that a highly placed official in the Japanese Foreign Ministry said that Hosokawa's statement also applies [haedang toendago] to the DPRK.

Such repentance [pansong] of the Japanese Government might work with the South Korean authorities who think they cannot live without Japan's help [tok], but it will not work on the DPRK.

We resolutely reject such repentance which disregards the question of illegality and invalidity of the old treaties, the most fundamental question in the liquidation of the past.

Instead of pursuing a policy hostile to the DPRK like its string of predecessors did, the Japanese Government should frankly admit its past crimes and break with the militarist past.

As we have already manifested time and again, as long as the Japanese Government continues to refuse to abandon [poriji annunhan] its hostile policy towards the DPRK and to properly liquidate its past, and sets the nuclear problem as a precondition to normalized diplomatic relations, we will not sit face to face with them at the negotiating table.

South Korean authorities must not resort to such pro-Japanese flunkeyism as shutting their eyes to the Japanese imperialists' past crimes by covering them up and forging history with outcries over future-oriented, improved relations, overcome the victim mentality to declare the treacherous South Korea-Japan Agreement [hanil kibon kwangye choyak] null and void, and turn to the road of restoring the national dignity before it is too late.

History can never be reversed.

KCNA on Spokesman's Statement

SK1711042493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0412 GMT 17 Nov 93

["No Negotiation With Japanese Government Unless it Renounces Hostile Policy Against DPRK, Declares DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry published a statement today upon the lapse of 88 years since the Japanese imperialists fabricated the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" on November 17, 1905, which stressed "we will not sit face to face with them at the negotiating table unless the Japanese Government renounces its policy hostile to us".

The statement says:

The Japanese imperialists fabricated the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" of 1905 and, on the basis of it, enforced a colonial rule over Korea for nearly half a century, inflicting immeasurable misfortunes and sufferings upon the Korean people.

Recently, new materials including a personal letter of Kojong, the emperor of old Korea, have been discovered and thus the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" has been proved indisputably to be illegal and invalid from the very beginning either from the historical point of view or in view of the international law. The Japanese Government, however, is unwilling to admit it.

During his some time ago visit to South Korea, Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa mentioned not a word about this matter but tried to clinch the history of the crime-woven past in which Japan had imposed untold misfortunes and hardships upon the Korean people, with a few words of secondary importance saying it "forced" Koreans "to obey the strange order to change their surnames" and "deprived them of opportunities of education" and he "apologizes" for it.

This shows that the Japanese Government has not departed at all from the unjust argument of its predecessors at the past Korea-Japan talks that the past "treaties" were "signed on a legal basis and came into force effectively".

Whether or not it admits to the illegality and invalidity of the old "treaties" including the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" which the Japanese imperialists had fabricated with a view to justifying their military occupation and illegal colonial rule over Korea is a touchstone showing whether it has the intention to honestly atone for the Japanese imperialists' past crimes against Korea and break with the militarist past, or not.

How could the Japanese prime minister's statement of "apology" be seen as an honest one that can convince the Korean people, a statement ignoring thus the fundamental problem for the liquidation of the past in the relations between Korea and Japan?

Moreover, what should not be overlooked is that a highly- placed official of the Japanese Foreign Ministry said the statement of Hosokawa applies to the DPRK.

Such "repentance" of the Japanese Government might work with the South Korean authorities who think they cannot live without Japan's "help", but not with the DPRK.

We resolutely reject such "repentance" which disregards the question of illegality and invalidity of the old "treaties", the most fundamental question in the liquidation of the past.

The Japanese Government should frankly admit the past crimes and break with the militarist past, instead of pursuing a policy hostile to the DPRK like the successive predecessors did.

As we have already manifested time and again, we will not sit face to face with them at the negotiating table so long as the Japanese Government refuse to renounce its policy hostile to the DPRK without an intention to properly liquidate the past as it is doing now, setting the "nuclear problem" as a "precondition" for the normalization of diplomatic relations.

The South Korean authorities must not resort to such pro-Japanese flunkeyist acts as turning a blind eye to the Japanese imperialists' past crimes including a forgery of history and covering them up with outcries over "future-oriented improvement of relations" and "overcoming of the consciousness of the victim" as they do now, but declare the treacherous "South Korea-Japan agreement" null and void and turn to the road of restoring the national dignity before it is too late.

History can never be reversed.

Japanese Leaders Urged To Apologize

SK1711105993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—Secretary of the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union Kang Kwan-son and Director of the Secretariat of the consultative council of former politicians in the North for the promotion of peaceful reunification Kang Tae-mu made public press statements on November 16 regarding the recent discovery of a personal letter of Kojong, a Korean emperor, declaring the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" of 1905 null and void in view of the international law.

Kang Kwan-son in her statement said it has been clearly proved this time that the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" was a false document and illegal and invalid. "Now no one can deny that all the acts committed by the Japanese imperialists in Korea by brandishing this false, fraudulent document were criminal deeds," she noted, and added:

"In particular, the brutalities committed by Japanese imperialism after drafting nearly 200,000 Korean women as 'comfort women for the Army' were brigandish and barbarous criminal acts making even brutes blush with shame, which can never be pardoned."

She strongly demanded that the Japanese authorities honestly apologize for their past crimes and compensate for damages before it is too late and thus express their will not to repeat such crimes in deed.

Kang Tae-mu in his statement charged that the South Korean authorities were clamouring about the overcoming of the consciousness of being victims" [quotaton mark as received] and "improvement of relations oriented to future" without a proper settlement of the past crimes of Japanese imperialism. "The present South Korean rulers are a group of pro-Japanese flunkeyist traitors outdistancing their predecessors," he said.

He called upon the political and public figures of South Korea to take an active part in the struggle to decisively check the pro-Japanese flunkeyist, treacherous crimes of the South Korean authority and obtain a due apology and adequate compensation from Japan.

Japanese Lawyer Cited on Ulsa Treaty

SK1711103193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—A Japanese lawyer, Etsuro Totsuka, when interviewed by KCNA, said he shares views with academic and judicial figures of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea about the illegality and invalidity of the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" of 1905.

He said the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" is a "treaty" which completely obliterated on the international scene the existence of Korea as an independent and sovereign state in the past and an inevitable "treaty" whereby Japan colonized Korea.

"The 'Ulsa Five-Point Treaty' is one which could not take effect from the very beginning of its 'conclusion'," he said, and went on: "The 'Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty' and other treaties based on the 'Ulsa Treaty', therefore, were castles on the sand, and the domination over Korea was an illegal military occupation and domination of other country in view of the international law."

He pointed out that in case Japan's "conquest of Korea by force of arms" should be defined by law, the legal, moral and political impact on Japan would be immeasurable and she would be unable to duck her responsibility for it.

He said:

"The Japanese Government had described the issue of 'comfort women for the Army' as deeds of individuals, maintaining that the claims for reparation and compensation have been solved through multi-national or bilateral treaties. However, it had to recognize, though belatedly, the fact alone that "sexual services" had been made through forcible and deceptive drafting by the imperial army, police and officials. Under such conditions, it cannot evade its obligations not only to investigate, sue and punish the criminals but also to make compensations."

The Japanese lawyer said "there can be no genuine relations of friendship between the Japanese and the Korean people unless Japan's legal, moral and political responsibility for the crimes committed against Korea and the Korean people in the past is clarified and solved correspondingly."

He contended that the question of Japan's postwar settlement should be solved to meet the sincere aspirations of the peoples of the two countries.

Commentary Terms Japan's Ulsa Treaty 'Illegal'

SK1611001793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "The Japanese Authorities Should Frankly Admit Their Past Crimes"]

[Text] As has already been reported, then-Korean Emperor Kojong's personal letter declaring the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty fabricated by the Japanese imperialists in 1905 to be null and void in view of international law has recently been discovered at the library of the

Colombia University of the United States, thus arousing the nation's burning indignation over the Japanese imperialists' crimes.

Regarding the recent discovery of Kojong's personal letter, the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland issued a statement on 11 November denouncing the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists in the past.

As has been known, in his personal letter addressed to the state leaders of the ruling parties of nine countries, including the United States, Russia, and Great Britain, Kojong strictly declared that the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty was null and void because he, as an emperor of Korea, had not empowered any state minister to sign the treaty and that he would never accept it in any case, pointing out the fact that Japan had fabricated the treaty while confining state ministers. At the same time, he expressed his will to file a lawsuit over Japanese imperialists' crimes before the International Court in order to prove that the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty is null and void.

As was already known, an original copy of the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty missing the king's signature and the Great Seal of the State was discovered at Kyujanggak in Seoul last year, thus proving the treaty to be a fake one fabricated completely by the Japanese imperialists.

In addition to this, the Korean emperor's personal letter declaring the treaty to be null and void has recently been discovered, thus utterly proving that the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty was null and void from the beginning.

As the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty has been proven to be illegal and invalid, all agreements between Japan and the then-Korean Government following the treaty, including the Chongmi Seven-Point Treaty and the Korea-Japan Agreement on affiliation of Korea to Japan, and follow-up measures have turned out to be null and void too. Accordingly, the illegality of Japanese imperialists' some 40-year occupation of Korea is beyond controversy.

All these facts plainly show the shamelessness of the Japanese imperialist aggressors and burglars, who infringed upon the sovereignty of Korea, a sovereign state, and put it under its colonial rule after fabricating documents that were unsigned and fake.

It became more clear that since the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty has been proven to be illegal and invalid, the Japan-South Korea Treaty on Basic Relations and the South Korea-Japan Agreement premising its validity are also null and void in view of international law.

When the treaty and agreement between Japan and South Korea were concluded, we solemnly declared at home and abroad that they were null and void.

The serious crimes and damages inflicted by the Japanese imperialists upon our people during the unheard of colonial rule of Korea after illegally occupying it cannot be dissolved with any apology and compensation.

The Japanese Government should make an official apology and adequate compensation for all mental and material damages they inflicted upon our people for more than 40 years. The Japanese Government ought to do so in front of the international community.

All successive Japanese authorities, however, have insisted that the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty was legally signed and valid at that time. Even now, when its invalidity has been completely proven, the Japanese authorities still refuse to admit its illegality and are trying to avoid their responsibility by using such evasive words as apology and reflection.

Furthermore, the Japanese authorities are impudently running wild to become a member of the UN Standing Committee, without dissolving their shameful past crimes. This maneuver by the Japanese authorities, which has failed to restore the international community's confidence because of their past crimes, is a derision of and disgrace to world justice and mankind's consciousness.

In particular, it cannot be forgiven that the Japanese authorities are indiscreetly running wild to put pressure on us while raising an outcry over fictitious nuclear development, instead of apologizing to and compensating our people for the past crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists.

This shows that the Japanese authorities not only refuse to repent for their past crimes, but also are trying to realize their old dream of a greater East Asia coprosperity sphere, which their predecessors failed to realize. This has been proven by Japan's open remarks that it was defeated in the World War II because it was not strong and that it would send its Self-Defense Forces to the Korean peninsula in case of war.

Now when the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty has historically been proven once again to be null and void, the Japanese authorities should frankly admit its illegality and apologize and compensate for their crimes to the satisfaction of our people and the people of the world, and behave discreetly.

The South Korean authorities are also responsible for chiming in with the Japanese Government, which is trying to evade its responsibility for the past crimes and to leave the disposition of them unfinished.

The South Korean rulers' traitorous act of selling the nation's dignity and interests while currying the Japanese authorities' favor will by severely judgment by history and the people.

President Kim Il-song Greets Sultan of Oman

SK1711152793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of

Korea tody sent a message of greetings to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id al-Said on the occasion of the national day of the Sultanate of Oman.

President Kim Il-song in the message wished the sultan and people of the Sultanate of Oman greater success in their work for the prosperity of the country and expressed the belief that the friendly relations between the two countries would further develop.

Kim Il-song Greets New Pakistani President

SK1611225593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2212 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 16 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Monday sent a message of greetings to Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari upon his election as president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

In the message President Kim Il-song expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations existing between the two countries would further expand and develop in conformity with the ideas of independence, peace and non-alignment.

And he wished the Pakistani president great success in his work for the independent development and prosperity of the country.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister on Nuclear Issue

SK1711044793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said she hopes the "nuclear problem" of Korea will be solved in a peaceful way when she received a Korean Government cultural delegation led by Vice-Premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang-chol on November 13.

She talked about the question of developing relations between Korea and Bangladesh.

WPK Hosts Reception for Zimbabwean Delegation

SK1711052593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] gave a reception Tuesday evening for the delegation of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front [ZANU-PF].

Invited to the reception was the delegation headed by Stephen Nkomo, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the ZANU-PF Central Committee.

Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and officials concerned were present there.

8 Nov DPRK-Cambodia Talks in Phnom Penh Noted

SK1711052693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—Talks were held in Phnom Penh on Nov. 8 between delegations of the Korean Social Democratic Party [KSDP] and the Funcinpec Party of Cambodia.

Present there on the Korean side were members of the KSDP delegation led by Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the party Central Committee, and on the opposite side were Chairman Norodom Ranariddh and members of the leadership of the Funcinpec Party.

At the talks Chairman Ranariddh said he extended, on behalf of the entire members of his party, warm congratulations to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader His Excellency Kim Chong-il on having turned the DPRK into an earthly paradise by wisely leading the struggle for the building of Korean-style socialism.

He stressed that the Cambodian people would fully support in the future, too, the "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" and all the proposals of Korea for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and always stand firm on the side of the Korean people in this course.

Peruvian Meeting Adopts Letter to Kim Il-song

SK1711052393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—A letter to the great leader President Kim Il-song was adopted at a meeting held in Lima on October 28 on the occasion of the 48th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea and the month of support to the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo [DCRK].

Praising the proposal for founding the DCRK based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments and the "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country", advanced by the great leader, as the most just ones for establishing an independent, peaceful and neutral, unified state, the letter expressed support and solidarity for them.

"We strongly denounce the nuclear racket of the U.S., Japan and South Korean reactionaries intended to stifle the peaceloving socialist homeland of chuche," it said.

Noting that the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula could be solved only through DPRK-U.S. talks, the letter urged the United States to take a sincere attitude.

Indonesia Amity Group Commemorates Relations

SK1711052493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—The Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Korea-Indonesia Friendship Association arranged a friendship gathering Tuesday on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the agreement on scientific-technological and cultural cooperation between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Indonesia.

Indonesian Ambassador to Korea R. Muhamed Muharam Sumadipraja and his embassy officials were invited to the gathering.

Present there were Kim Chin-pom, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, and other officials concerned.

The participants saw a performance by art circle members of the Korea-Indonesia Friendship Pyongyang Yulgok Senior Middle School before chatting with one another in a friendly atmosphere.

Kim Il-Song Awards Yi In-mo Samil Wolgan Prize

SK1711043793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, promulgated a decree of the Central People's Committee on awarding the Samil Wolgan prize of the DPRK to Yi In-mo.

The decree dated November 10 said the DPRK Central People's Committee awarded the prize to him who staunchly fought to defend the revolutionary principle, undaunted by torture and brutal persecution for 34 years in prison after being taken prisoner by the enemy while active as a war correspondent of the Korean People's Army in the great fatherland liberation war, upholding the party's leadership, and wrote full-length notes telling about the heroic feats of his comrades-in-arms and exposing the inhuman brutalities of the enemy to make a great contribution to educating the people in a revolutionary manner.

Talk Praises Kim Chong-il's 'Great Leadership'

SK1611060293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2240 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Unattributed "talk": "Great Leadership and Immortal Works: Rooting the Lofty Intent of Single-Hearted Unity"]

[Text] Our chuche socialism is vigorously advancing with thriving vitality even amid the enemies' vicious maneuvers against our Republic. Seeing our people's true appearance of marching in victory with the might of the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style, we cannot but think deep in our hearts about the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has led us to glorify socialism with the might of single-hearted unity.

It has become our people's faith and will today to uphold and infinitely respect their leader [suryong] and leader [chidoja] and to brilliantly consummate the chuche revolutionary cause by rallying around them with single-hearted unity. Such faith and will of our people have become [word indistinct] and invariable, thanks to the wise leadership of the dear comrade leader.

One day in December 1977, when giving on-the-spot guidance in the whole area of South Pyongan Province, the dear comrade leader recalled in deep emotion the proud tradition of our revolution, which had been ever victorious with single-hearted unity. Then he said that infinite reverence of and confidence in the great leader [suryong] is the firmest foundation for unity and cohesion of our party and people.

The dear comrade leader went to say that single-hearted unity, in which the people are always in the heart of the great leader [suryong] and only the leader exists in the people's hearts, is precisely not only the single-hearted unity based on faith and sense of obligation, but is also the single-hearted unity of the party and the people that we are seeking to achieve.

Also on an April day last year when we significantly celebrated the 80th birthday of the respected and beloved leader as the greatest festival of our nation, the dear comrade leader talked about our single-hearted unity with deep emotion. On that day, the dear comrade leader said the reason our people have become the people with strong independence is because we are firmly united around the party and the leader [suryong] with a high independent spirit. He also said that the source of the invincible might of the [word indistinct] lies in unity and that the most solid unity is the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses.

Then he stressed that the firm determination and strong will to carry out the revolution with the belief in one's own leader [suryong] and party and by firmly rallying around them are precisely our people's most solid ideological source.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il added: Single-hearted unity in our country began when the revolution had been carried out under the chuche banner with the great Comrade Kim Il-song highly upheld as the center of unity, and it has entered a developing stage through the struggle to model the whole society after the chuche idea under the great leader's leadership.

The dear comrade leader said that the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses is the wellspring of the might and invincibility of our country's socialist system and that it is a basic factor that makes it possible for our socialism to advance in victory after victory without being shakened under any difficult circumstances.

Because he has firm faith and will that the revolution is synonymous with unity and unity is synonymous with victory, the dear comrade leader has stressed the tradition of single-hearted unity achieved on the road of the Korean revolution, which has traversed a long way, upholding the respected and beloved leader, and led party members and working people to inherit its lofty ideological and mental world.

The story on a day in June 1970 is also one of a kind. Deep in thoughts gazing at the waves at a lake side, the dear comrade leader said in a deep emotional tone that every time he visited here it reminded him of an old lady of Kaesong whom the leader has always mentioned.

He then said that when the internal and external situation was in such a mess after the war, our leader [suryong], hearing the people's voices from the modest words of the old lady of Kaesong, (?acknowledging) the people's inexhaustible strength, and [words indistinct], he defended the party's line to the end. He added that we should never forget the legendary story that will shine for a long time in the history of our party.

One day in November 1992, the dear comrade leader, recalling the old lady of Kaesong again in front of functionaries, said that the old lady of Kaesong gave faith and strength to the great leader [suryong] when our revolution suffered an ordeal during the postwar period and that numerous old ladies of Kaesong today have given faith and strength to our party. Thus, the dear comrade leader proudly mentioned single-hearted unity, which is a proud tradition of our revolution. He then elucidated that the proud tradition should effloresce so the work of leading all the people to uphold their leader [suryong] and party generation after generation under difficult circumstances can be strengthened.

Because our single-hearted unity is led by the tested leadership of the dear comrade leader, who is leading our people with lofty single-hearted unity in which our people exist only in the great bosom of the party and the leader [suryong] and the party and the leader [suryong] are upheld only in the bosoms of the people, our revolution is ever victorious, overcoming arduous trials and the superiority and vitality of socialism of our own style are being more vigorously demonstrated.

On 5 May 1991, seated with responsible functionaries of the party Central Committee, the dear comrade leader made the historic statement that our-style socialism centered on the popular masses is victorious and invincible. In the statement, he proudly pointed out that today the imperialists and reactionaries are viciously maneuvering to obliterate [malsal] socialism, but our country's socialism is advancing under its banner without shaking to a slightest degree in spite of their smear offensives and slanders. He then passionately said that the source for the invincible might of socialism, which reflects the independent desire of the popular masses and the demands of the times, lies in the support and trust from the popular masses and that this is the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses produced by the great leader's endless love toward the people.

That day, the functionaries sympathized deep in their hearts that the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

It is because of the might of the single-hearted unity that our- style socialism centered on the popular masses has become so powerful and strong and enjoys great vitality. Indeed, thanks to the [word indistinct] leadership of the dear comrade leader who is wisely leading us to add luster to socialism our socialism is ceaselessly developing into a powerful and mighty socialism while fully displaying its superiority and vitality.

Our people will all the more glorify the popular masses-centered socialist system of our own style, built by the great leader and blossomed by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, through the vigorous struggle to consummate the socialist cause while upholding the chuche banner and firmly uniting around the party and the leader.

26th GFTUK Plenary Session Held in Pyongyang

SK1611142593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] The 26th plenary session of the General Federation of Trade Union of Korea [GFTUK] Central Committee was held in Pyongyang yesterday [15 November].

Present at the session were Comrade Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the Workers Party Korea Central Committee; members and alternative members of the GFTUK Central Committee; and chairmen of the trade unions of major plants and enterprises in provinces, municipalities, and counties. Discussed in the plenary session was the task of trade union organizations to further strengthen the single-hearted unity of the whole society centering on the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

After the GFTUK's Chu Song-il made a report, discussions were held at the session.

Reporters and debaters said that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song had recently fully elucidated tasks and plans to endlessly consummate the chuche revolutionary cause.

They said: Looking back on the revolutionary work he has carried out under the love and protection of the revolutionary comrades and the people, the great leader has elucidated the superiority and invincibility of socialism in our country. He has also presented a general task to endlessly achieve the socialist cause and the chuche revolutionary cause by further strengthening the single-hearted unity of the whole society in our country, where the issue of leadership succession is being resolved satisfactorily.

They said that the people throughout the country, who received a programmatic teaching of the great leader with their boundless excitement, are full of a burning resolution to consummate the chuche revolutionary cause, thus cherishing in their hearts a dignity and happiness of upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il—who has both literary and military accomplishments and who is both loyal and filial—a center of the leadership.

They stressed that further strengthening the single-hearted unity of the entire party and the whole society centering on the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is a decisive guarantee for endlessly adhering to and consummating the socialist cause and the chuche revolutionary cause.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The basic duty of the labor organizations is to lead members of the trade union to strongly unite around the party and to vigorously mobilize them into the revolutionary struggle and construction work, thus properly educating them.

Reporters and debaters said that the trade union organizations are now faced with an honorable task of leading all members of the unions to firmly unite as one around the dear comrade leader in conformity with the demands of developing realities.

They stressed: To smash various challenges and obstructive maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries, to adhere to the socialism of our own style, and to consummate the chuche revolutionary cause, the entire party, the entire Army, and all people must further unite as one around the dear comrade leader with the identity of ideology, will, morality, and fidelity. They must uphold his leadership with loyalty.

They said that based on revolutionary faith and fidelity, all members of the trade union must actively uphold, protect, and adhere to the dear comrade leader, saying that the might of our socialism is just a might of the single-hearted unity, and that its invincibility lies in the single-hearted unity.

They stressed that for this end, all functionaries and members of the trade union should deeply grasp the immortal achievements gained by the dear comrade leader before the times and revolution, who is a great ideological theorist and politician, and a military strategist.

They said: All members of the trade union should deeply grasp the ideological and theoretical greatness of the dear comrade leader, the greatness of his leadership, and the greatness of his ethos as a leader [chidoja] of the people, thus strengthening the study of the party documents, including Kim Chong-il's selected works, fully giving explanatory lectures in combination with practice, and properly organizing a question-and-answer contest.

They also stressed that the trade union organizations and functionaries should establish a firm discipline in which all unions move as one under the leadership of the party, and that they should thoroughly display the revolutionary spirit of unconditionally and endlessly executing the party's decision.

They said that the trade union organizations can thoroughly carry out the leadership of the party and satisfactorily fulfill their mission and duty as a support for the party only if the ranks of the trade union are strongly prepared and the function and role are further enhanced. And they have presented tasks for its realization.

They said: All trade unions must help the primary organizations become living organizations that always act energetically and positively conduct a campaign to create the model primary organizations and strengthen the organizational life among members of the trade union. Trade union functionaries must set the example in all fields.

They said that all members of the unions should positively rise up to create the speed of an all-out march toward the socialism of our own style in order to implement the revolutionary and economic strategies of the party, thus adhering to the general line of our party and vigorously carrying out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural. The plenary session stressed that all functionaries and members of the unions must vigorously struggle to consummate the chuche revolutionary cause, thus cherishing in their hearts a firm faith that our socialism is ever victorious because of the dear comrade leader, and that there is a fatherland, nation, and their life because of him.

Women's Union Holds Plenary Meeting 15 Nov

SK1711035693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] The 18th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union [KDWU] was held on 15 November in Pyongyang. The plenary was attended by Kim Song-ae, chairwoman of the KDWU Central Committee; members and alternate members of the KDWU Central Committee; and provincial, city, county, and complex KDWU functionaries. The plenary meeting participants discussed KSWU organizations' task that will arise to further strengthen the whole society's single-hearted unity with Comrade Kim Chong-il as the center.

At the plenary meeting, following a report by Kang Kwan-son, general secretary of the KDWU Central Committee, many participants participated in discussions.

Reporters and those participating in the discussions noted that recently the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song presented again the programmatic tasks and policies to inherit and consummate the socialist cause and extensively elucidated the superiority and invincibility of our country's socialist system and the greatness of our party.

They stressed that the respected and beloved leader's teaching which has profoundly and flawlessly elucidated the fundamental problems arising in the struggle to inherit and consummate the socialist cause is a revolutionary banner that vigorously encourages and inspires our party and people to the struggle for safeguarding and defending our country's socialism and for brilliantly realizing the chuche revolutionary cause to the end.

The plenary meeting, noting that further strengthening the whole society's single-hearted unity with Comrade Kim Chong-il as the center is a most important task facing the union today, presented measures on this. The plenary meeting noted that KDWU organizations should conduct in a substantial manner and in various forms and methods indoctrination work to master the greatness of our party in depth and breadth so as to foster all KDWU members to become genuine loyalists and filial daughters who trust and follow only the party and the leader [suryong].

The plenary meeting noted the need to deeply inculcate the superiority and invincibility of our country's socialism through [word indistinct] and to properly carry out indoctrination work on KDWU members so that they should devotedly struggle to safeguard, defend, and add luster to the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style by upholding the party's leadership with loyalty.

The plenary meeting noted the need for KDWU organizations to increase the production of consumer goods by upholding and following our party's policy to carry out the revolution in the light industry sector and, in particular, to contribute to improving the standard of the people's living by actively participating in the work of greeting the 30th anniversary of the publication of the socialist rural theses with high political zeal and labor success by producing more grain crops.

The plenary meeting noted the need to love the People's Army as blood brothers, to actively assist it by constantly enhancing the traditional laudable custom of unity between the Army and the people among KDWU members, and to develop new generations into genuine loyalists of our party by properly carrying out youth education.

The plenary meeting noted the need to enhance the function and role of infrastructural organizations of the KDWU and to strengthen the guidance to KDWU members' organizational life so as to firmly build the KDWU ranks into ranks of loyalty that move as one according to the party's intent.

The plenary meeting adopted a relevant decision.

KCNA Notes Women's Union Meeting

SK1711102493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—The 18th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union [KSWU] held here Monday discussed tasks facing its organizations in further strengthening the singlehearted unity of the whole society around Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The reporter and speakers noted that the great leader President Kim Il-song comprehensively expounded the superiority and invincibility of the socialist system of Korea and the greatness of the party recently when he indicated once again highly important tasks and ways of carrying forward the cause of socialism to completion.

The plenary meeting defined it as the most important task of the KDWU at present to further strengthen the singlehearted unity of the whole society around Comrade Kim Chong-il, and raised practical measures to this end.

Korean Journalists Union Conference Opens

SK1711052293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—The seventh conference of the Korean Journalists Union [KJU] has opened here today with a large attendance.

It will sum up the achievements made by the KJU and in publication and information services under the wise guidance of the party and the leader in the period under review and discuss militant tasks facing the journalists and men of the press in taking the lead in steadfastly defending the party and the cause of socialism and successfully accomplishing it.

The agenda items of the conference are:

1. On the work of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the KJU
2. On the amendment to the rules of the KJU
3. On the election of central leadership body of the KJU

Kang Song-san, Politburo member of the C.C., WPK and premier of the Administration Council, conveyed a congratulatory message of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea to the conference.

The chairman of the C.C., the KJU, Hyon Chun-kuk, delivered a report on the first item under the subject "Let Us Become the Vanguard on the Ideological Front, Loyal to the Party and the Cause of Socialism".

The conference continues.

Chongnyon Delegation Arrives

SK1711062093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] A delegation of reporters of the General Association of Koreans Residing in Japan [Chongnyon] headed by (Choe Yun-kyun), chief editor of CHOSON SINBO, arrived in Wonsan by Mangyongbong Nr. 93 ship on 13 November to participate the seventh conference of the Korean Journalists Union to be held in Pyongyang.

The delegation was received at the port by Choe Yong-sam, first vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Journalists Union.

Wonhwa Cooperative Farm Reaps 'Bumper' Crop

SK1711103993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—A meeting for year-end account settlement and income distribution was held at the Wonhwa cooperative farm in Pyongwon County, South Pyongan Province, which reaped an unusual bumper harvest. The Wonhwa cooperative farm is a farm of honor which registered the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as its honorary farmers.

This is a meaningful year in which falls the 10th anniversary of the registration of the dear leader as its honorary farmer.

This year the farm produced over 8,990 kilograms of rice and 11,120 kilograms of maize from each hectare on an average and carried out its plans of vegetable and fruit production respectively at 104 percent and 118.5 percent.

The farmers there have always set an example for the whole country in doing farm work.

The farm markedly increased the per hectare grain yield this year as compared with last year by keeping to the principles of the right crop on the right soil and the right crop in the right time and raising the fertility of arable land with good compost.

Talk Stresses Modelling Society on Chuche Idea

SK1611094793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0200 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Unattributed talk: "Modelling the Whole Society on the Chuche Idea Is the Supreme Program of Our Party"]

[Text] Our party has proposed advancing the modelling of the whole society on the chuche idea as the supreme program of our party. The working class party should put forward a correct program. This is a basic issue in the party's construction and activities. The party with a correct program can have a clear target and a scientific method with which to realize the target. By so doing, it can implement its historical mission.

Based on the scientific analysis of the basic demand for the working class revolutionary party's construction and activities and of the pressing demand for revolutionary development in our times, our party has put forward modelling the whole society on the chuche idea as the party's supreme program.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Our party has put forward the construction of the whole communist society after the model of the chuche idea as the party's supreme program. Our party has vigorously pushed ahead with the work to reform people, society, and nature as demanded by the chuche idea.

Modelling the whole society on the chuche idea is to advance our revolution and construct and complete the communist society based on the chuche idea, with the respected and beloved leader's great revolutionary idea, the chuche idea, as a unitary policy guide. Modelling the whole society on the chuche idea is to bring up the members of our whole society to be the chuche-type communists endlessly loyal to the great leader [suryong]. In addition, modelling the whole society on the chuche idea is to occupy the communist ideological and material fortresses by thoroughly reforming the society as demanded by the chuche idea.

Modelling the whole society on the chuche idea is the party's supreme program. This is, above all, because this slogan clearly elucidates our party's ultimate purpose. The supreme program of the working class' party should clearly elucidate the party's ultimate purpose. By so doing, the party should give a clear target and direction and firm confidence to the party members and working people. Only then can the party carry out all party work and activity purposefully, consciously, and aggressively.

Our party's ultimate purpose is to construct a communist society, mankind's supreme ideal. The slogan, "Modelling the whole society on the chuche idea," clearly elucidates our party's ultimate purpose of constructing the communist society by thoroughly reforming human beings and society as demanded by the chuche idea.

Above all, modelling the whole society on the chuche idea fully elucidates the intrinsic demand of the communist society and the inevitability of its completion.

Modelling the whole society on the chuche idea elucidates that the communist society is the society where the independence of the working popular masses is completely realized and where all conditions are met so that the working popular masses can enjoy independent and creative lives to their heart's content. In addition, modelling the whole society on the chuche idea newly elucidates that the process of constructing and completing communism is the process of reforming human beings, society, and nature as demanded by the chuche idea.

Modelling the whole society on the chuche idea fully elucidates the ideological, theoretical, spiritual, and moral traits, which should be acquired by those who are now struggling to construct socialism, communism, and by those who will live in the communist society.

The chuche-type communist revolutionaries who live in the communist society are genuine revolutionaries, who regard the chuche idea as the unitary view of the world and who regard loyalty to the great leader and the party as the most valuable life.

In addition, modelling the whole society on the chuche idea elucidates not only a basic direction and demand for reforming society in a communist way, but also all social relations and methods for activities of communist society.

Politically and ideologically, social relations in communist society are based on loyalty to the leader and the leader's revolutionary ideology. Economically speaking, social relations in communist society are based on relations of simple communist ownership.

The people's activity in the communist society is to live and act according to communist-type standards and rules of conduct, in which the collectivist principle has been embodied in all fields of social life. Likewise, the chuche idea elucidates all aspects of communist society anew.

The society fully embodied with the chuche idea by thoroughly reforming human beings, society, and nature as demanded by the chuche idea, is the communist society. Therefore, modelling the whole society on the chuche idea is our party's supreme program.

Modelling the whole society on the chuche idea is the party's supreme program, because this militant slogan elucidates a basic method to realize our party's ultimate purpose. The slogan, "Modelling the whole society on the chuche idea," fully elucidates the strategy and struggle policy that should be firmly maintained on the revolutionary road to communist construction.

How to realize the communist cause—processes, strategies, and tactics—is a very important question arising in the construction of socialism and communism.

The previous working class theory did not clearly elucidate the revolutionary road to communist construction, strategies, and tactics. Worse still, the previous working class theory did not include strategy and tactics as essential elements for the working class party's supreme program. This was fully revealed by the great chuche idea.

The chuche idea has elucidated not only the original ideology and theory for socialism's complete victory but also the revolutionary road ranging from socialism's complete victory to the construction of communist society. The chuche idea has fully explained the improvement and task over the period of transition from capitalism to socialism; the tangible condition for realizing socialism's complete victory; and the inevitability of the transition to communism.

The chuche idea has fully elucidated the strategy and struggle policy which should be maintained throughout communist construction, along with the revolutionary road to communist construction.

The chuche idea has elucidated that to construct communism, two fortresses—ideological and material—should be occupied and that while firmly giving priority to the work to reform human beings, we should vigorously struggle to occupy the two fortresses.

The chuche idea has clearly elucidated struggle policy on carrying out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural, along with the two strategist targets for communist construction.

Likewise, the chuche idea has fully elucidated the most correct method for our working class and the people in our times to successfully construct socialism, communism, without any deviation. For this reason, modelling the whole society on the chuche idea is our party's supreme program.

The original ideology in which the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong- il regulates modelling the whole society on the chuche idea as the party's supreme program is the great ideology which provides a complete answer to the issue concerning the supreme program of the working class' revolutionary party.

Daily on Importance of 'Singlehearted Unity'

SK1711110193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 17 Nov 93

["NODONG SINMUN on Successfully Carrying Forward Tradition of Singlehearted Unity"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 17 (KCNA)—What is most important in successfully carrying forward the tradition of singlehearted unity of our revolution is to cement steel-like the unity and cohesion of the party and revolutionary ranks around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, stresses an editorial of NODONG SINMUN today.

It quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"All the officials should make strenuous efforts to further strengthen the unity and cohesion of the party and revolutionary ranks centering on Comrade Kim Chong-il by inheriting the tradition of singlehearted unity of our revolution."

The editorial headlined "Let Us Brilliantly Carry Forward the Tradition of Singlehearted Unity" reads in part:

To consolidate our close singlehearted unity around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as firm as a rock today is a most important work to smash the anti-socialist moves of the imperialists and thoroughly defend the precious gains of our revolution.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il now is leading the sharp confrontation with the enemy to a victory with his superb strategy and tactics, with an iron faith and steadfast will not to make even the slightest concession of the fundamental interests of our revolution. The leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, our supreme commander, is the lifeline of our country and nation and the socialism of our own style.

When the entire party members, working people and officers and men of the People's Army more firmly unite around the party and the leader, with a firm resolve to become rifles and bombs safeguarding their leader like in the semi-war time, all the manoeuvres of the imperialists will be fully frustrated and the lineage of our-style socialism will be given continuity with fortitude.

In order to glorify the tradition of singlehearted unity, all the party members and working people should maintain the steadfast stand and attitude of sincerely upholding the illustrious leader, and the whole party, the entire people and the whole Army should strive unremittingly to firmly arm themselves with the ideas and theories of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. And the revolutionary traits of thoroughly ensuring the unitary guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to the whole party and society should be established more firmly.

South Korea

U.S., ROK Said To Reach Agreement on North

'To Accept' North's Proposal

SK1711022393 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 17 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] The ROK and the United States have decided to accept the expanded inspection proposal [hwaktae sachalan] proposed by North Korea to ensure the continuation of safeguard measures of North Korea's nuclear facilities.

Regarding the package deal of the nuclear issue, which has been requested persistently by North Korea, the ROK and the United States have concluded their position to have a general discussion connecting the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise with the acceptance of full nuclear inspection [chonmyon haeksachal] by the North Korean side in the third round of the North Korean-U.S. talks after North Korea accepts the expanded inspection.

According to a high-ranking government official on 16 November, in order to resolve the stalemate situation of the North Korean nuclear issue and prevent the suspension of the continuation of nuclear safeguard measures, the U.S. State Department is inclined to accept the expanded inspection proposed by North Korea through the press statement recently issued by its Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu.

The official explained that, last week, North Korea made clear its readiness to expand the sphere of inspections beyond simple replacement of inspection equipment and sent a message to the International Atomic Energy Agency requesting a inspection team be sent to Pyongyang.

Therefore, there is a high possibility that sooner or later North Korea and the United States will agree upon trading expanded inspection for a third round of North Korean-U.S. talks. Following the second round of talks held on 19 July, the third round of the talks is expected to be held early next month at the earliest.

The ROK and the United States established a policy to promise to consider suspending the Team Spirit exercise, which North Korea demands by suspended indefinitely on the grounds it poses a nuclear threat, when North Korea accepts the expanded inspection and discuss the suspension in the subsequent third round of North Korea-U.S. talks.

The United States and the ROK has fine tuned their opinions to announce the decision to suspend the Team Spirit exercise next year in exchange for the acceptance of full inspection in the third round of talks with North Korea.

Gallucci: U.S. To Be 'Flexible'

SK1711010093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0046 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Washington, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—Robert Gallucci, assistant secretary of State for Political and Military Affairs, says the United States will make its best diplomatic effort to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue.

Declaring that U.S. patience has its limits, Gallucci said, however, that North Korea has to meet the conditions laid out by the United States—allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its facilities, and resume dialogue with South Korea.

Gallucci made the comment at a seminar on North Korea at the Carnegie Center on Tuesday.

Asked to confirm that the National Security Council [NSC] in a meeting Tuesday had worked out a series of proposals for North Korea, Gallucci said that the United States will be "flexible" in its negotiations with Pyongyang.

It is the U.S. Government policy that the United States will try to dispel North Korea's security concern over "the nuclear condition of the U.S. troops stationed in South Korea" If North Korea "accepts complete inspections" of the IAEA.

With regard to a press report that the NSC meeting positively studied economic aid to North Korea, Gallucci said: "It is the problem that can be discussed after the nuclear question is resolved."

Queried whether the United States has set a deadline for North Korea to accept outside inspection, Gallucci said he would not specify a date. Personally, he said, he believes that efforts to resolve the nuclear issue are moving in the right direction.

The United States is approaching this problem with a belief that North Korea, too, wants to resolve the nuclear issue, he said. The seminar was attended by specialists on North Korea from South Korea, Japan and China. It invited the minister at the North Korean mission to the United Nations, but he could not attend because of travel restrictions.

Team Spirit Suspension Denied

SK1711022993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0218 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry has denied reports that the United States plans to suspend the "Team Spirit" Seoul-Washington military exercise in exchange for resumption of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections.

"We have not received any indication that there has been any change in Washington's basic policy," Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong told reporters on Wednesday.

"The two preconditions remain—that IAEA inspections resume and South and North Korea make progress in dialogue and exchange presidential envoys," he said.

Wire reports from Washington said the National Security Council (NSC) will soon submit a report to President Bill Clinton recommending suspension of the annual Team Spirit maneuver if North Korea agrees to permit immediate inspections of its nuclear facilities. Reaction in Seoul was that Team Spirit cannot be exchanged for IAEA inspections, that inter-Korean dialogue must record substantial progress and that this remains a condition for any carrot to be handed over to Pyongyang.

U.S. Said To Change Strategy

SK1711074593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0730 GMT 17 Nov 93

[By Yi Tong-min]

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—A significant shift has been detected in U.S. strategy toward the North Korean nuclear problem, with more emphasis on carrots instead of sticks.

The latest recommendation from the National Security Council (NSC) is that Washington should suspend the South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise "Team Spirit" if North Korea agrees to allow inspections by the International Atomic energy agency (IAEA).

Seoul's immediate reaction was that conditions still exist to be met before South Korea and the United States will give out this or any other carrot—North Korea must accept IAEA inspections and agree to an inter-Korean exchange of presidential envoys.

Although this remains true, what underlies the recommendation is the feeling that North Korea has to be induced, not pressed, to meet the two demands.

Also underlying them is the so-called comprehensive solution, where North Korea and the United States exchange card for card.

Suspension of Team Spirit, which the North Koreans claim is a war drill, has always been an attractive carrot. But Seoul and Washington insisted suspension was separate from Pyongyang's fulfillment of IAEA obligations.

The IAEA inspection obligations are things that North Korea has been bound to accept by law from the day it joined the agency. Seoul and Washington say they are not about to reward North Korea for doing what it is naturally required to do by suspending Team Spirit. But now the NSC has linked Team Spirit suspension with IAEA inspections.

Robert Gallucci, assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs and chief U.S. representative to the nuclear talks with North Korea, recently told a seminar that Washington is approaching the situation based on an understanding that Pyongyang, too, wants to solve the nuclear problem. The international community, including the United States, the United Nations Security Council and the IAEA, have tried wielding sticks on North Korea, such as resolutions. What the NSC now suggests are carrots.

If the past tone was for pressing North Korea to meet the demands first, the tone now is, let's meet each other half way. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Tuesday he wants to make sure Washington has exhausted all diplomatic means "because the other alternatives are unsatisfactory in their own way."

His remarks suggest a much-felt need to find a breakthrough so that Seoul and Washington can find a diplomatic solution, and the NSC has come up with these suggestions.

If U.S. President Bill Clinton accepts the recommendations, it may well be a beginning to a comprehensive solution to the North Korean nuclear crisis. It will be like a first try at bartering card for card.

Seoul's reaction to reports of NSC recommendations was that they are misleading, that progress in inter-Korean dialogue is as important a precondition as IAEA inspection to a major concession like Team Spirit suspension.

Confirming this point will be up to South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, who will be meeting Clinton at the White House next week.

Editorial Calls for Prudence in North Trade

SK1611065893 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 16 Nov 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Promotion of Trade With the North Should Be Prudent"]

[Text] Trade between North and South Korea is progressing steadily. Up to the end of last year, inter-Korean trade was small scale, we imported a small quantity of primary products, such as mineral and fishery products, from the North. This year, however, imports from the North have become brisk in such labor-intensive light industrial goods as bags, toys, blue jeans, overalls, and high-quality men's suits. These goods are made in North Korea with Southern businesses supplying the materials and paying the wages for the processing—the so-called processing for wages.

According to what has been revealed, the quality of the goods made in North Korea through this processing-for-wages method is good, and because the wages are low, the goods are competitive in international market. Therefore, the local trading firms are said to be considering exporting their light industrial goods to overseas markets using this method.

From the sheer economic point of view, this is a method well worth considering. There are a few basic problems, however. First, if the goods produced in North Korea through this method are satisfactory, it means that the North Korean production facilities have been modernized. How have these facilities been modernized? Considering the extremely scarce North Korean foreign exchange, it is quite possible for us to assume that the modernization of facilities were possible by investment from Japan or the ROK. If the latter is true, the government should examine closely how the funds were provided for investment in the North.

Second, when our businesses form economic relations with the North, they try to be as secretive as possible to prevent the North Korean residents from knowing about it. This is in line with the North Korean strategy to keep North Korean residents unaware of South Korean economic power and economic development, in order to maintain its system. Making money is a good thing, but if South Korean businesses cooperate with the North Korean strategy in excess, it is possible that they are acting to the detriment of our basic policy—the creation of an atmosphere for reunification through economic exchange. In other words, their assistance to North Korea does nothing to help realize reunification.

Third, we should question whether our businesses' contact with the North can be made without deviating from the principle of our national position that economic cooperation must come only after North Korea accepts nuclear inspection. Undoubtedly, the economic method to induce North Korea to accept nuclear inspection is to stop the inflow of funds and materials into North Korea until the North Korean economic difficulties reach a critical point, though this is the last card we ought to use after all diplomatic efforts are unsuccessful.

Nevertheless, our businesses are conducting economic exchanges with the North. They should be aware that this could bring about misunderstandings and criticism from the international community.

Our economic exchange with North Korea, governmental or nongovernmental, should be conducted with a well-organized proper plan, without trial and error, and with a long-range view to the future after reunification. If our businesses take Kim Il-song's offers without hesitation in pursuit of immediate interest, they may well bring about enormous side effects and regret later.

Samsung To Sell North Korea-Made Men's Suits

SK1711055193 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 17 Nov 93 p 6

[From the "Industry News" Column]

[Text] Samsung Co. imported high quality suits made in North Korea and has recently begun selling them through its sales outlets in Seoul. Samsung imported 1,800 suits under a processing on commission [imgagong] contract and plans to sell 900 under each of its two brands—Buckingham of Essess Fashion, and Brooks Hill of Cheil Textiles. The upscale Buckingham will be sold at 280,000 won apiece, and the medium priced Brooks Hill at 170,000 won.

According to a Samsung official, North Korea's sewing skills are highly rated and are gaining favorable responses in the Japanese market. The official also said that if consumer response is good, the processing on commission business will be expanded.

Daily Notes North's Focus on Research Fails

SK1511002993 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] North Korea has been stressing research and development in science and technology in recent years but has made little progress mainly because of a lack of finance.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and other communist regimes and subsequent suspension of assistance has worsened the scientific and technological development efforts by the last Stalinist country, according to a report by the Seoul-based Naewoe Press which monitors North Korean affairs.

The Pyongyang regime included an intensive program for scientific and technological development in its third seven-year economic development plan which began in 1987.

The program projected investment of 3.4 percent of the gross national product (GNP) in R&D [research and development] during the period. North Korea also seeks to increase the annual R&D investment to 5 percent of GNP by 2000.

The ambitious program was mapped out under the guidelines of Kim Chong-il, elder son and heir-apparent of North Korean leader Kim Il-song. The junior Kim particularly emphasized the significance of scientific and technological development in his speech to a national rally of scientists and engineers in Pyongyang in 1991.

The North Korean focus on science and technology appears to have stemmed from its review of the second seven-year development plan which was a failure. North Korean economic policy-makers might have thought that the failure was due to a lack of support of science and technology, the report said.

It was first manifested by the issuance by the junior Kim of a written "teaching" on science and technology in 1985 in which he placed significance on R&D efforts for the first time.

In his guidelines, Kim particularly emphasized the necessity to work out a long-term development program for science and technology and to modernize facilities and equipment for R&D activities.

Under the program, the North also planned to turn out as many as 2 million scientists and engineers by the end of this decade, establish and expand R&D facilities and modernize research centers affiliated with state-run factories and enterprises.

The North Koreans selected 260 projects and tasks to be tackled to realize their ambitious program.

Cooperation with and financial assistance from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and other international organizations was emphasized for the program.

However, it seems now almost impossible for North Korea to realize the ambitious plan, taking into account its long economic pinch, the Naewoe Press observed.

Such an observation is based on the fact that North Korea's overall economic situation is so serious that it has little money to invest in the program.

Apparently because of its economic policy based on "chuche," or self-reliant ideology, which shows no signs of being modified for the time being, the North Korean economy is estimated to have recorded negative growth for the consecutive three years since 1990.

"Under these circumstances, it would have been impossible to raise funds for R&D investment as targeted under the program," an analyst of the press said.

Besides, the collapse of communist regimes in eastern European countries and their transformation into market-oriented economies virtually cut the link between North Korea and its former communist allies in exchanges and cooperation with them in science and technology as well as in other sectors.

The North can no longer expect the introduction of high technology and assistance from these countries, the analyst said. Therefore, North Korea will continue to find it difficult to draw technical assistance from them as long as it sticks to its current closed-door policy, he predicted.

North Korea has no other choice but to carry out its own scientific and technological development program.

Reportage, Comment on Preparations for APEC

President Calls Opposition Leader

SK1711024893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0222 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam, preparing to leave for Seattle to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit Wednesday, called Yi Ki-taek, chairman of the opposition Democratic Party, and explained the importance of his first overseas trip as president. Kim asked Yi for his party's cooperation with the government during his absence, according to Pak Chi-won, Democratic Party spokesman.

Following the APEC leaders' meeting, Kim is scheduled to go to Washington for an official visit at the invitation of U.S. President Bill Clinton. Kim is to be the first foreign head of state to officially visit Washington since the Clinton administration was inaugurated earlier this year.

In a five-minute telephone conversation, Kim told Yi that he had been busy preparing for the APEC meeting since it was going to be a very important occasion for discussions of economic coopeartion among leaders of the regional countries, Pak said.

Yi wished the president success at the APEC meeting and urged him to try to create "a favorable climate" for the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue through his separate meetings with regional leaders, Pak said.

Emergency Duty During Absence

SK1711050593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0448 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—Members of the administration will be on emergency duty from Wednesday, when President Kim Yong-sam leaves on his first overseas trip since taking office in February. On Tuesday, Kim told cabinet members in a breakfast meeting to do their best in security, defense, safety and law and order while he is away. In response, they set up an emergency duty system in which Chongwadae [presidential office], the prime minister's office, and the Home and Defense Ministries play key roles.

Senior Presidential Secretary for Political Affairs Chu Ton-sik is acting chief presidential secretary and reports on domestic affairs to Chief Presidential Secretary Pak Kwan-yong, who is on Kim's official entourage.

Those senior presidential secretaries not traveling with the president will be on night duty from Wednesday, while the offices of the senior secretaries for political and press affairs will operate around the clock to analyze public opinion on Kim's activities in the United States and report to the president.

The senior secretaries for Foreign Affairs and National Security and for the press, Chong Chong-uk and Yi Kyong-chae, are also accompanying the president.

During the president's absence, Prime Minister Hwang In-song will meet with ministers related to law and order, safety and security to ensure nothing goes wrong.

On Friday, Hwang will meet with safety-related ministers, including Home Minister Yi Hae-ku, Construction Minister Ko Pyong-u, Labor Minister Yi In-che and Transportation Minister Chong Chae-sok. They will discuss ways to prevent accidents such as last month's sinking of a ferry off the coast of Puan, North Cholla Province.

This will be preceded by a meeting of the law and order-related ministers on Thursday and followed by a meeting of the security- related ministers on Saturday.

The Armed Forces will continue with the "Foal Eagle" field exercise until Saturday, and for this reason, together with the commander-in-chief's absence, they have declared the Defcon [defense condition] 3 emergency state.

Prime Minister Hwang told a staff meeting on Wednesday that all government offices, both central and local, should do their utmost to fulfill their assigned duties during President Kim's absence.

The administration and Democratic Liberal Party should cooperate more closely to ensure that the National Assembly smoothly passes the budget and 175 political reform bills during its current session, he said. Illegal collective actions, such as unauthorized demonstrations, will be dealt with according to the law, he said.

President Departs for U.S.

SK1711075693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0739 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam on Wednesday afternoon embarked on his first overseas trip since he took office in February, beginning a nine-day official visit to the United States at the invitation of U.S. President Bill Clinton.

President Kim, accompanied by First Lady Sohn Myoung-soon, left Seoul International Airport aboard a special plane. He was seen off by some 60 government and political leaders and members of diplomatic corps.

"This visit means a new start for me and for our people toward the world and future," Kim said at a departure ceremony.

"With my visit to the United States, our two countries will not only strengthen and solidify our relations but also form a new, progressive partnership for the 21st century."

Before arriving in Washington, President Kim is scheduled to attend the leaders' meeting of the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Seattle on Nov. 19-20. Referring to the APEC gathering, Kim said the meeting will mark the opening of the Asia-Pacific era.

"I intend to present my own and the Korean people's vision for the Asia-Pacific era and explain my reform policy," he said.

Saying that Korea's misfortune started its isolationism at the beginning of the 20th century, Kim said a great new Korea in the 21st century will begin with globalization.

"With the people's support, I am going to return home after planting the changed image of Korea firmly in the world," he said.

After arriving in Los Angeles on Wednesday morning (local time), he is scheduled to meet Korean immigrants in the area before leaving for Seattle.

While attending the APEC leaders' conference, Kim will also hold separate meetings with President Jiang Zemin of China and Prime Ministers Paul Keating of Australia and John Chretien of Canada to discuss problems related to bilateral economic cooperation and directions the APEC should take.

Kim is scheduled to deliver a keynote speech on the dawn of a new Asia-Pacific era at the APEC leaders' meeting, to be held on Blake Island. President Kim will then proceed to Washington to begin his official visit to the United States from Nov. 21. He will be the first foreign head of state to officially visit Washington since Clinton took office.

Kim and Clinton will hold a summit at the White House Nov. 23 to discuss the North Korean nuclear issue and other topics of mutual interest. The two leaders will hold a one-on-one and enlarged meetings. Their meetings are expected to draw keen interest worldwide because they are going to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to defend South Korea and work out final, joint measures on the North Korean nuclear question.

Kim and the First Lady Sohn will attend a banquet given by the Clintons at the White House on Nov. 23. Prior to that, Kim will receive an honorary degree from American University on Nov. 22. He will also be honored with the Averell Harriman Democracy Award. The president is to return home Nov. 25 via Anchorage, Alaska.

Foreign Minister Views APEC

SK1611133393 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 16 Nov 93 p 4

[Article contributed by Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu]

[Text] The Maastricht Treaty on the consolidation of the European Community (EC) has been in effect since 1 November. The U.S. Congress will vote on the North American Free Trade Act [NAFTA] on 17 November. By 15 December, a month later, the fate of the Uruguay Round negotiations will be decided.

The Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] summit will be held on 20 November under such circumstances.

It is a well-known fact that since the Cold War ended, the focus of international relations has changed from security to economy. The world economic order will dominate world peace and prosperity in the 21st century. The Uruguay Round, APEC, NAFTA, and the EC are the organizations that will play a decisive role in shaping the world economic order.

If the Uruguay Round fails, the world's free trade system will be threatened. If such a thing should take place, what will become of the world economy? Some expect that the world economy will be divided into three parts—Europe, North America, and East Asia. They believe that the three regions will have relations of conflict and competition just as the East and the West did during the Cold War era. Others expect that the world economy will be divided into two parts, the EC and the Pacific economic bloc, which have already formed economic blocs. The Pacific economic bloc includes East Asia and North America.

Considering the Pacific economic bloc alone, our choice is clear. If the Pacific economy is divided into two parts—the North American economic bloc and the East Asian economic bloc, much damage will be caused to our country and, thus, our country will be in a difficult situation.

This is because the economic scale of the United States, Japan, and China is big enough for them to stand on their own feet. Our country's economic scale is not big. In addition, the ASEAN is establishing its own free trade district (ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA]). Our country, however, has not established its own free trade district. Thus, the division of the Pacific economy greatly restricts our choice between NAFTA and AFTA, and between Japan and China.

Such a situation should be avoided for the sake of our country's interests. There are two methods to avoid such a situation: One method is to maintain and strengthen the world free trade system by settling the Uruguay Round negotiations. Another is to firmly hold together the two spheres in the Pacific—North America and East Asia. The two methods complement each other. The Uruguay Round is the strength that holds together the world economy's three pivots—Europe, North America, and East Asia. And APEC is the strength that holds together North America and Asia.

When the World War II ended, the world demanded a new economic order. For this reason, a new order was born with the GATT and IMF as two pivots. With the GATT and IMF as a center, the West has promoted economic growth and prosperity.

The world economic order is being restructured at this time when the Cold War is over. In particular, regionalism has emerged and has spread to the Asian-Pacific region.

We presented the "Asian-Pacific cooperative body" concept last May as part of our new diplomatic policy. The Asian-Pacific cooperative body concept, in short, calls for linking the two Pacific coasts. This is truly possible because East Asia and North America are very interdependent.

The total GNP of the East Asian countries, which was less than one 10th of the total GNP of the world at the start of the Cold War, now accounts for over one fourth of the total world GNP. This progress was possible largely due to the close economic and trade relations between East Asia and North America. East Asia's exports to North America are one third of its total exports.

Promoting close economic ties with East Asian countries, which have continuously achieved high economic growth, is essential to the North American countries whose top priority at present is economic recovery. The volume of transpacific trade began to exceed that of the transatlantic trade 10 years ago. And, it is predicted that the volume of transpacific trade will increase to twice the volume of transatlantic trade.

Thus, East Asia and North America need each other. In spite of the trade disputes, the two regions have established extensive reciprocal relations. This typifies the interdependence of the two Pacific coasts. It is important to make efforts to maintain and develop this interdependence.

If the North American economies close their doors, the East Asian countries will distance themselves from the Pacific and try to form their own economic organization. Likewise, the attempt by the East Asian countries to form their own economic organization will make the North American countries distance themselves from the Pacific and become isolated. Then, the Pacific, which has great potential for the future, will not be able to play its appropriate role, and the interdependence between East Asia and North America will be threatened.

To prevent this possibility, it is necessary to form an Asian-Pacific cooperative body. The Asian-Pacific cooperative body, which was proposed by the ROK last May as part of our new diplomatic policy, is similar to the new Pacific community which U.S. President Clinton proposed last July.

The APEC summit and the ROK-U.S. summit, which will follow the APEC summit, will present visions for the Pacific era of the 21st century and discuss them. The basic principle of the visions will be based on the "Asian-Pacific cooperative body" and the "new Pacific community."

What we will pursue in the upcoming series of talks is, in short, establishing a strong tie between the two Pacific coasts. In so doing, we want to promote our national interests and contribute to prosperity in this region and the world as a whole. From this perspective, the APEC summit will serve as a good opportunity to carry out our new diplomatic policy.

Daily Urges Clear Stance

SK1711071793 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 17 Nov 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Tasks for the ROK-U.S. and ROK-PRC Summit Talks]

[Text] Reports have it that neighboring countries are briskly making efforts to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue. A party to direct negotiations with North Korea, the United States is working out a "comprehensive solution method," while China's intermediary role in resolving North Korea's nuclear issue is gradually becoming official. At this juncture, the summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] is expected to become a watershed in resolving North Korea's nuclear issue.

For this reason, our attention is focused on the activities of President Kim Yong-sam as he departs for the first trip abroad since the launch of his new government. Of course, President Kim Yong-sam has the heavy task of economic diplomacy, in addition to the issue concerning the security of the Korean peninsula, such as North Korea's nuclear issue, before him. Today, when the importance of the economy is tantamount to the security issue, President Kim Yong- sam's resolve to be a self-professed salesman, is natural [tangyonhan kosida]. However, much attention is, of course, focused on North Korea's nuclear issue due to the specific structure of the Korean peninsula.

Thus, we are interested in the position President Kim Yong-sam will take and the way his position will be presented at the ROK-U.S. and the ROK-PRC summit talks. We are especially interested in President Kim Yong-sam's summit talks, because the U.S. Administration is working out its own "comprehensive solution method" and because China is showing its intention to join in the dialogue to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue. The intentions of the United States and China will be revealed at the summit talks. The United States and China are expected to broadly link the issue of resolving North Korea's nuclear issue with the improvement of the Korean peninsula's situation.

One foreign paper explained that the "comprehensive solution method" is the first step in catapulting the last caveman's regime into the civilized world. This implies the hastening of the opening of North Korea. The improvement of the Korean peninsula precisely means the opening of North Korea. If such measures succeed, change in North Korea and, thereby, the improvement of the Korean peninsula, will take place. While North Korea's nuclear issue is thought to be shifting into another dimension, many pitfalls still remain.

North Korea's nuclear issue is apt to expand into political consultation. We do not altogether refuse to hold political consultations, but feel that there are actual and practical steps that need to be taken prior to political consultation. North Korea, for example, should first reveal a clear and tangible attitude on dissipating nuclear suspicion. We are well aware from experience what is meant by the proposal to hold political consultations for a package solution. This is not the proper procedure.

At this time, it is fortunate that the U.S. Administration's National Security Council has set up North Korea's acceptance of nuclear inspection and the resumption of North-South dialogue as a precondition for comprehensive dialogue between the United States and North Korea. This conforms to our administration's policy. The U.S. Administration's comprehensive solution method alone, however, is not enough. A harder line should be drawn. The line is to reaffirm the basic principle that, excepting the nuclear issue, the North and the South are the parties concerned with the solution of the issues on the Korean peninsula, and that ROK-U.S. relations should be respectful of ROK opinion. Our government's position on this needs to be clear.

A clear ROK Government position is also necessary in relations with China. We ask the U.S. and PRC heads of state to listen carefully to the ROK president's views on North Korea and the Korean peninsula [taepukinsikkwa hanbando kusang].

Vice Foreign Minister To Visit Africa

SK1711012193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0026 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong embarks on a 10-day trip to Africa on Nov. 28, making the first journey abroad by an official of his level since 1986, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

He will visit Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya and South Africa, and meet with government officials in those nations to strengthen relations with Korea.

Seoul has closed many missions in the region since abandoning diplomatic competition with Pyongyang.

Survey Planned With Japan on Resettlement

SK1711023693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0211 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—The government plans to make a joint survey with Japan by the end of this year of Koreans in Sakhalin who want to return to their homeland for permanent resettlement, government officials said on Wednesday. They said the government will bring up the issue at the second Korea-Japan working-level conference, slated for Nov. 29, as one of the follow-up measures to the Seoul-Tokyo summit earlier this month.

Japan took hundreds of thousands of Koreans by force during World War II as soldiers or workers, and many of the forced laborers were abandoned by Japan in Sakhalin after the war. At this conference, the South Korean Government plans to tell Japan it should finance construction of nursing homes for those returned from Sakhalin and pay their living expenses.

"The issue of this conference is the joint survey of those who want to return and settle in South Korea and Japanese financial support for them," an official said. "The government wants to make the survey this year, if possible."

Seoul notified Tokyo of its plan to provide land for retirement homes and other facilities for those returned from Sakhalin at the first conference.

In the summit, Japanese Premier Morihiro Hosokawa had said the government was arranging their resettlement and would continue efforts to send them home to Korea.

Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, visiting Seattle for a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), is scheduled to meet with his Japanese counterpart, Tsutomu Hata, to discuss follow-up measures to the Seoul-Tokyo summit.

Prospects 'Poor' for PRC Joint Ventures

SK1611071093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0629 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—South Korean steelmakers have their hearts in the Chinese market, but are close to pulling out of joint-venture projects there because of the poor investment environment.

Pohang Iron and Steel Corp. (POSCO), Hanbo Steel and General Construction Co. and Pusan Steel Pipe Corp. all say they have initiated or considered building steel mills in China, a market with limitless potential arising from its ongoing infrastructure programs.

POSCO has been pursuing a joint-venture mill with an annual turnover of 120,000 tons of tin sheet in Shanghai since two years ago, and has started looking into expansion of a cold-rolled sheet plant in Tianjin to manufacturer 200,000 tons a year. But it has made little progress on the Shanghai project because of disagreement over an investment guarantee and a 19-percent duty on imports as it needs to ship tin plate supplies for the factory from Korea.

POSCO and its Chinese contractor are at odds over which foreign exchange system to adopt as the communist country has double tariffication, one controlled from Beijing and one a free market exchange, and over selecting a site. The contract will fall apart without a radical compromise from the Chinese side, POSCO officials say, adding that they are equally unlucky with the cold-rolled sheet project.

The tin sheet mill would have been Korea's first steel advancement. Although POSCO participated in building a container plant with an annual capacity of 40,000 teu (20-foot equivalent units), it has just a 10-percent stake in the joint venture.

Hanbo and Pusan say they are seeking joint ventures of steel bar and pipe in Tianjin and three Northeastern Provinces, but they are stuck in similar situations to POSCO.

Intellectual Property Treaty With Switzerland

SK1711100393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0928 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Switzerland have initialed an agreement covering 20 Swiss-made pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products under intellectual property protection, the Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday.

The agreement came at the end of two days of talks and applies to products patented in Switzerland after Jan. 1, 1980, and not sold over the counter before July 1, 1987. The terms are based on the intellectual property agreement that Korea signed with the United States in 1987, the first ever for Seoul, and which allowed retroactive protection dating back to 1980.

Korea settled the same issue with EC last week and negotiations with non-EC European countries are likely to follow, ministry officials said.

Switzerland is to present a list of items eligible for protection by January next year, and the agreement will go into effect as soon as the two sides decide on the 20 specific items.

Chong Ui-yong, director-general for International Trade at the Foriegn Ministry, signed the agreement with Thomas Cottier, deputy commissioner at the Federal Office for Intellectual Property.

Government, DLP Agree on Higher Priced Rice

SK1611061493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0521 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—The government and ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) decided on

Tuesday that the government will purchase 9 million sok (1.3 million tons) of rice from farmers this year at a price 3 percent above last year's.

Deputy Prime Minister Yi Kyong-sik, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Ho Sin-haeng, DLP Policy Planning Committee Chairman Kim Chong-ho, and National Assembly Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Committee Chairman Chong Si-chae were among the government and party officials at the meeting.

The government will ask the National Assembly to pass the proposal after the cabinet gives its stamp of approval.

Government and DLP officials meeting at Chongwadae early Tuesday morning set the amount and price of this year's rice purchase and then reported on their decision to President Kim Yong-sam.

They then reconvened at the National Assembly to formally adopt the decision.

The Economic Planning Board had suggested that the government purchase 9 million sok of rice at the same price as it paid last year while the DLP proposed it buy 9.6 million sok and raise the price 6 percent. The amount and price may be increased by the National Assembly when it deliberates the proposal.

The state purchased 9.6 million sok last year.

It was also decided to provide 179.6 billion won (223 million dollars) in support for farmers who suffered crop damage because of the cool summer.

DP Criticizes Government's Rice Proposal

SK1711085293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0747 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—The government and ruling party are taking heat not only from the opposition and farmers, but from within their own ranks for agreeing that the state will buy 9 million sok (1.3 million tons) of rice this year at prices 3 percent above last year's. The main opposition Democratic Party [DP] decided on Wednesday to reject these figures, setting the stage for a battle royal when the National Assembly debates the rice purchase bill. The DP insists that the state should buy 11 million sok (1.6 million tons) and pay 13.9 percent more than last year, and says it is ready to scuttle passage of the budget to get its way.

On Wednesday, it demanded the National Assembly Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Committee meet to consider the question. The DP is to meet Thursday with representatives of 96 farmers organizations to plot a strategy to make the government change its mind and plan a joint campaign against the government.

Farmers marched through downtown Seoul on Tuesday in a protest against the government's decision shortly after it was reported. Some of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] own lawmakers are saying that the National Assembly should increase the amount and price of the purchase before approving it.

"I worry if farmers accept this harvest purchase plan," DLP Rep. Kim Yun-hwan said. "Considering the rise in commodity prices and wages of public officials, we should buy the same amount of rice as last year and raise the price more than 6 percent so that our farmers are not disappointed."

A statement by the United People's Party said it was shocked by the decision and urged the government to buy the entire rice crop and increase the purchase price to match the inflation rate.

Bureaucrats warn that a large hike would increase commodity prices and rice market opening pressure by other countries. They also note that 9 million sok is 27.3 percent of this year's harvest, a larger proportion than in any year since 1989 when it was 28.7 percent. It is possible that the assembly will raise the purchase amount and price.

"I expect that the National Assembly will increase the amount and the price, but in that case the opposition will eventually claim credit," DLP Rep. [Representative] Pak Chong-su said. "We (the DLP) should have shown the will to meet the expectations of farmers. The government and the party overlooked this point."

Trade Ministry Calls Meeting on Low Exports

SK1711022493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—With gloom and alarm over the state of Korea's trade figures just six weeks from the end of the year, the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry has called an emergency meeting with the planning directors of major trading houses for Thursday to discuss what they can do to improve the situation. Enthused over the blooming of semiconductor exports in spring, the government projected that exports would reach 83.5 billion U.S. dollars this year.

On Wednesday, however, the ministry forecast that exports will stop at 82.8 billion dollars while industrialists predicted an even worse picture at 82.5 billion dollars.

Samsung, the sole lucky one thanks to the boom in semiconductor sales, expects to do far better than its initial prediction of 8.6 billion dollars with exports of 9.3 billion dollars, but most of the other traders have been forced to lower their sights.

Hyundai had hoped to reach 9.3 billion dollars this year, but now doubts that it can attain 9 billion dollars in view of its January-October performance of 6.33 billion dollars, just 68.3 percent of its estimation. Hyundai says it worked hard to compensate for the time wasted by months of industrial trouble to reach the 9 billion-dollar goal by hastening shipbuilding and assembly of cars for shipment, but even with overtime it could not catch up with the demand for automobiles at home or shorten shipbuilding periods.

Lucky-Goldstar found luck only in semiconductors while its electronic appliances and chemical goods lines remained sluggish. It now expects exports to be down 100 million dollars at 4 billion dollars.

"In reality, even the 4 billion-dollar goal looks beyond our ability as we reached just 3.09 billion dollars by last month," a Lucky worker says.

Hyosung says its mainstay advancement of steel and petrochemical goods was hurt by China's tight economic policy since July, and it thus expects exports to be down 50 million dollars at 2.2 billion dollars.

Korea's January-October exports were 66.9 billion dollars and to reach 83 billion dollars by the year-end shipments have to be 18.4 percent up over a year earlier for the last two months.

November-December exports may increase by two digits as exports in the final two months last year recorded minus growth over a year earlier, a Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) official says, adding, however, his anxiety over the little show of improvement in overseas performance by trading houses.

As a kind of rescue measure, the government promised to cut some of the red tape that hinders overseas activities and extend as much as export support as permitted by international norms like the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Speaking on the reality and goals of the Korean economy at a meeting hosted by the Korean Veterans Assocation on Wednesday, Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong diagnosed that exporting is the best economic stimulus for raising investment and employment without causing ill effects like a deficit in the international balance of payments and price instability.

Hong, naming internationalization as the goal for new economic progress of the country, promised to cut various red tape to boost investment by both Korean and foreign firms and to improve the investment environment by stabilizing interest rates and expanding infrastructure projects.

In addition, the government aims to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) by 1996, do its best to conclude the Uruguay Round by the year-end, and use this week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economic leaders' meeting in seattle to raise Korea's international status, he said.

Rising Yen Boosts Machinery Exports 21.2%

SK1711024993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0226 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—Korean machinery exports are up 21.2 percent this year because of the rising value of Japanese yen, the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry said Wednesday. January-September exports hit 3.33 billion U.S. dollars led by chemical machinery, up 82.9 percent at 167 million dollars on heated demand caused by the yen's strength. Exports of construction and mining machinery surged to 213 million dollars, up 64.4 percent, because of an export drive to offset sluggish domestic sales.

Transportation and loading machinery exports hit 114 million dollars, up 35.8 percent, with rising demand for cranes and conveyor system from Southeast Asia. Shipments of textile machinery reached 327 million dollars, up 17.5 percent, on demand for dyeing machines from China and Southeast Asia.

Optical machinery exports marked 159 million dollars, up 13 percent, and the trend is expected to continue.

Exports of engineering machinery fell 1 percent to 85 million dollars because of economic weakness in advanced countries and exports of farm machinery dropped 34.9 percent to 13 million dollars.

Machinery exports are forecast at 5.08 billion dollars next year, up 15 percent from this year, a ministry spokesman said.

Bank Reports Productivity Outpaces Wage Hikes

SK1711030293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0248 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 17 (YONHAP)—Sales fell sharply in January-June, profits rose 2.2 percent, and productivity is rising faster than wages, according to a report Wednesday by the Bank of Korea. Wages posted their smallest rise since 1987, below the growth of productivity, and the cost of raw material imports was reduced, improving the competitive strength of Korean industry, the Central Bank report says. The bank surveyed 2,077 companies with turnover above 500 million won for its report.

The 1,780 manufacturers saw sales rise 6.8 percent in January-June, compared with 12.5 percent a year earlier, because of sluggishness on the domestic market. Small- and medium-sized companies and light industry had especially bad scores. Turnover rose 2.7 percent for the 105 construction firms and 7.8 percent for the 192 wholesalers and retailers, compared with 34.3 percent and 23.9 percent last year, respectively. The profit rate is 2.2 percent, off from 2.3 percent last year.

Larger, exporting and heavy chemical companies made higher profits than small, light and domestic-consumption firms.

Firms Try To Extend Illegal Workers' Permits

SK1711014093 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] With less than one month left before the forcible deportation of illegal foreign workers, associations of industrialists and local small- and medium-size manufacturers have filed petitions and appeals with relevant administration authorities demanding that they be allowed to stay.

The Kumi Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Monday demanded in a formal appeal filed with the Labor and Justice Ministries that the temporary work permits at textile and electronics factories in the Kumi industrial complex be extended in consideration of the acute labor shortage.

In its appeal, the Kumi chamber said nearly 80 percent of the 500 foreign workers in the Kumi complex fill jobs shunned by Koreans for being dirty, difficult and dangerous [3D], contributing much to normal factory operations.

"The forcible deportation of these foreign workers, who originally came here on tourist visas and passed a legal period of stay, will cause an acute shortage of workers for the factories, making it inevitable for them to cut operations," the chamber said.

In this vein, it would be appropriate for the government either to shelve its deportation plan or to legalize their employment, it said.

The Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Pusan and Inchon, the nation's two largest port cities, also joined in calling for allowing the foreign workers to stay yesterday. In its statement, the Inchon Chamber of Commerce and Industry said it is stark reality that illegal foreign workers are assuming growing responsibility in the so-called 3D jobs and construction sites.

"If they are deported instantly, it would cause a great number of small firms across the country to reduce operations drastically because of manpower shortages," the statement said.

In the past, illegal foreign workers, mostly from Southeast Asian nations and China, had been granted a grace period several times in consideration of the serious shortage of workers in small firms. Their work permits expire Dec. 15. As the date draws near, many of them have gone into hiding in recent months to avoid forcible deportation.

In the meantime, an industrial complex management corporation in Ansan recently asked the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy to revive the foreign workers training system so that factories can employ foreign trainees at their workplaces.

The corporation demanded that the issuance of working visas for foreigners be expanded to 3D jobs and that foreign trainees be allowed to stay up to two years from the present maximum one year.

Electronic, Foreign Firms Increase Cooperation

SK1611022693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0148 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 16 (YONHAP)—South Korean electronics companies are no longer dependent on foreign firms for technology but have become their partners or guides.

The number of foreign companies seeking strategic cooperation with Korean firms has been rising since the turn of the year in a phenomenon not seen until last year.

Samsung Electronics Co. has concluded 11 contracts on cooperation with U.S. and Japanese firms since last December, including one for construction in Portugal of a semiconductor factory in a joint venture with Texas Instruments Inc.

Of these, 10 are for technical cooperation, including joint fabrication of equipment, in the development of next-generation semiconductors and one, concluded with General Instruments of the United States in January, is for joint development of high-definition television.

In most of these technical cooperation projects in the semiconductor sector, Samsung is the technology provider.

"As we've become the world's top Dynamic Random Access Memory [DRAM] chip maker, foreign firms now are rushing to us for technical cooperation. Until two years ago, they had avoided any technical tie-up with us. At present, we have technical cooperation requests from three or four foreign firms," a Samsung spokesman says.

Hyundai Electronics Co. signed a technical cooperation contract with Fujitsu Co. of Japan last month for joint production of 4- and 15-megabyte DRAM chips under Hyundai's technical leadership.

"Foreign firms, predicting that South Korean firms, including Samsung Electronics, will lead the standardization of next-generation memory chips, are having strategic cooperation with South Korean firms in great haste, a phenomenon that was unseen until two to three years ago," an official of the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry says.

Burma

Secretary Receives UNHCR Representative

BK1011150793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], received visiting UNHCR Representative Professor Yozo Yokota at the Defense Ministry's Dagon House at 1300 today.

Present were U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs, and Thura U Aung Htet, director general of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Yokota and his party, accompanied by responsible personnel of the Foreign Ministry, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda at 0800 today. They later went to Dagon University and inspected the science laboratory, lecture halls, accounting department, and held inquiries with the students.

The visiting delegation next inspected the Yangon [Rangoon]-Syriam bridge. Yokota and his party later called on Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw at his office at 1600.

UNHCR Representative Departs 16 Nov

BK1611145093 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Visiting UNHCR representative Professor Yozo Yokota and party left Yangon [Rangoon] by air this evening.

They were seen off at the airport by U Ba Thwin, director general of International Organizations and Economics Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Jehan Raheem, resident representative of the United Nations Development Program; and responsible personnel.

UNHCR representative Prof. Yozo Yokota met with foreign correspondents at the Yangon international airport departure lounge prior to his departure and answered questions raised by them.

The meeting was attended by U Sein Win from KYODO NEWS AGENCY, U Chit Tun from UPI, U Hla Htwe from ANTARA News Agency, U Maung Maung from JIJI News Agency, U Khin Maung Thwin from AFP, Mr. Zhou Yongxi, chief journalist from XINHUA News Agency, U Thitsar Hla Htwe from Tokyo Broadcasting Service, Daw Aye Win from AP, and U KHin Maung Myint from NHK TV and Broadcasting Service.

This morning the delegation was accompanied by responsible personnel and visited the Myanmar [Burma] Medical Association [MMA] and were welcomed by First Vice President Dr. Myo Myint, Second Vice President Dr. Thein Aung, and General Secretary Dr. Kyaw Myint Naing. The MMA general secretary explained matters relating to health education in the association's conference hall while responsible personnel answered queries raised. Prof. Yozo Yokota and party next viewed the new MMA building plan, books, and other pamphlets.

Joint Thai Border Committee Meets in Moulmein

BK1111151693 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Excerpts] A Thai delegation led by Lieutenant General Chettha Thanacharo, first army region commander of the Royal Thai Army, currently in Myanmar [Burma] to attend the eighth meeting of the Myanmar-Thai Regional Border Committee, arrived at Moulmein airport on 8 November at 0930. They were welcomed by Major General Ket Sein, commander of southeast military command, senior military officers, and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [passage omitted]

At 1030 on 9 November, the eight meeting of the Myanmar-Thai Regional Border Committee was held at the southeast command headquarters' meeting hall. The Myanmar delegation headed by Commander Maj. Gen. Ket Sein and the Thai delegation led by Lt. Gen. Chettha Thanacharo, first army region commander of the Royal Thai Army, held discussions. [passage omitted]

The meeting agreements were signed at 1500 on 10 November and photographs were taken. The Thai delegation accompanied by Commander Maj. Gen. Ket Sein, senior military officers, and responsible personnel went on a riverine cruise along the Salween river.

The Thai delegation arrived back in Yangon [Rangoon] this morning. They visited the Shwedagon pagoda, the furniture sale shop of Myanmar Timber Enterprteat Dagon Myothit, and the Dagon University.

The Thai delegation left Yangon by special aircraft today afternoon and they were seen off at the airport by Brigadier General Saw Tun, commander of eastern military command; U Phone Myint, Myanmar ambassador to Thailand; Mr. Wirasak Futrakun, ambassador of Thailand; Colonel Thein Swe Myint, Myanmar military attache; and Regional Border Committee members from the Myanmar side.

SLORC Releases 27 Detainees From Jail

BK1011144593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] It has been learned that 27 male detainees, against whom action was taken under existing laws and who were serving their sentences, have been released from Ma-ubin Jail today after their remaining sentences were commuted in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC].

Cambodia

Ranariddh Urges Khmer Rouge To Be Flexible

BK1611121693 Phnom Penh AKP in English 1016 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP November 16—First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh has asked Khmer Rouge to change position if they want to have talks with the royal government.

Speaking at the airport upon his return from Bangkok Monday, Prince Ranariddh warned the Maoist faction to be more flexible.

Unless they changed their stance, the prince said, he would not be able to meet with anyone from the faction (Khmer Rouge).

"When they still ask for the dismissal of Chea Sim, Hun Sen, Tie Banh and Sar Kheng we cannot sit and talk," he said.

The Khmer Rouge were demanding the "dismantling" of his coalition partner in the government, Prince Ranariddh said.

Prince Ranariddh said the Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan is interested in territorial integrity of Cambodia which the radical faction sees solely as an issue of getting back Cambodian land seized by Vietnam over the past decade. "But we should talk about all territorial integrity," he added.

KRAF Kill 28 Khmer Rouge, Take Prisoners

BK1611145193 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] According to a source from the Third Bureau of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF] General Staff, during the second week or from 8 to 14 November, military activities provoked by the army of Democratic Kampuchea [ADK] outnumbered those of the previous week [words indistinct]. The most noteworthy of these ADK activities took place in the provinces of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, and Kompong Thom.

In Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, on 10 November, the ADK fired five rounds of 107-mm artillery pieces into our KRAF position west of the Banteay Srei district seat. On the same day, they attacked Krapeu village located 20 km north of the provincial seat. Our KRAF fought back and successfully defended their position. On 11 November, ADK troops robbed people who were transporting timber 7-km north of the Chong Kal district seat. They shot dead 13 cart owners and seized 14 carts together with 24 oxen. On the same day, the ADK confiscated several oxcarts from the people living near Dam Dek village, Sot Nikom District, and used them in transporting ammunition.

In Battambang Province, on 7 and 8 November, the ADK fired between 30 and 50 H-107 and 82-mm and 60-mm mortar rounds against our KRAF position in Bavel District. On 10 November, between 50 and 70 ADK troops from Divisions 320 and 415 armed with assorted weapons crossed Route 38 in a move to attack our KRAF positions west of the Battambang provincial seat. On the same day, they fired three artillery rounds into our position west of [words indistinct].

In Kompong Thom Province, on 10 November, ADK forces raided Sakream village and killed a father and his son. On 11 November, between 50 and 70 ADK troops were massed in an attempt to attack the command post of the 20th Regiment, 5th Division, of the KRAF.

Also last week our KRAF fulfilled their duty to protect their positions and the populations. They carried on their activities at the border junction between the provinces of Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham, and Kratie. At the same time, they appealed to the ADK to voluntarily return to the national community.

In sum, during the second week of November our KRAF killed 28 ADK troops, took 64 prisoners, welcomed 26 returnees back to the national community, and seized [words indistinct].

Ministers Receive Greetings From PRC Leader

BK1611075893 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Prince Krompreah Ranariddh, first prime minister, and His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, second prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia [KOC], recently received a congratulatory message from H.E. Li Peng, PRC prime minister, that says in essence:

On the 40th anniversary of KOC's independence day, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people and in my own name, I warmly congratulate the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC]. The Chinese Government and people are happy to note that the KOC has entered a new and historic era with peace and national restoration. The Chinese Government and people wish the Cambodian people, under the leadership of His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman and the RGC, new successes in the defense of independence and peace, the realization of national reconciliation, and the restoration of the motherland.

May the traditional ties of friendship and the friendly Chinese-Cambodian cooperation be eternally strengthened and further expanded.

North Korean Premier, Delegation End Visit

BK1511123193 Phnom Penh AKP in English 1002 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP November 15—North Korean delegation led by Prime Minister Kang Song-san ended a week-long visit to Cambodia on Friday, 12 November.

During its stay here, the North Korean prime minister met First and Second Prime Ministers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen; and Acting President and Chairman of the National Assembly Chea Sim.

Kang and his party also toured a number of provinces and visited the Angkor Wat temple complexes in Siem Reap Province.

According to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Uch Kim-an, Kang Song-san signed pacts on Friday with Prince Norodom Sirivut covering economic, trade, cultural and agricultural cooperation.

Kang Song-san who was the second foreign leader to visit Cambodia after the setting up of the new cabinet of the royal government on October 29 also attended the celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of Independence Day (Nov. 9).

He also participated in a reception at the "Chamka Mon" state palace organised by First and Second Prime Ministers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen.

DK Party Welcomes Call for Roundtable

BK1711101193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Nov 93

["Statement by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea" welcoming and supporting the appeal for a roundtable between all Cambodian parties; dated 16 November—read by announcer]

[Text] I. Seeing the serious situation facing the Cambodian nation and society, our Cambodian nation and people both inside and outside the country, as well as the compatriots in Phnom Penh have made a sensible appeal calling for a roundtable to be held urgently between all Cambodian leaders in order to find ways to achieve national reconciliation, unity, peace, and stability in Cambodia. They have called on all parties to compromise, soften their respective stances, and uphold national interests above all else. They called for a cease-fire and an end to war and violence.

II. As is known to our nation and people as well as the compatriots in Phnom Penh, his majesty the king said that there should be constant contacts with the king as the bridge, the intermediary, although other conditions still could not be fulfilled. He said this while granting an audience to His Excellency Khieu Samphan, head of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], on 1 October 1993. We should have a dialogue to consider and examine all problems raised by various parties, such as the cease-fire, the role of the PDK representatives in the government and army, and the arrangement and integration of all armed forces into the Khmer Royal Armed Forces.

The king stressed that we will be able to advance toward solving problems, be it by 20 percent, 30 percent, or 40 percent in this manner. We must strive to solve problems little by little. The PDK, for its part, has taken a very big step by recognizing and supporting the king and accepting the Constitution.

Later, in a message dated 30 October 1993 that he kindly issued to our nation and people on his birthday, the king said that the salvation of our nation, motherland, and people must be carried out by ourselves and that the only heavenly medicine that can cure the most serious ailment of our Cambodia is national reconciliation, national unity, national conscience, national pride, and the resolve to achieve our sacred national unification as our nation did in the matchless era of glorious Angkor and in the recent period of 1952-53 when his majesty the king led the royal crusade for the full independence of Cambodia. A big lesson we have drawn from the 1952-53 royal crusade is that this sacred national reconciliation and resolve may avoid the bloodshed and war. The armed struggle to liberate the nation is very excellent and valuable; however, it would be more excellent to seize and bring full independence to the motherland through peaceful means.

In this message, the king added that there are three major problems that our nation must resolve:

A. The problem of the Khmer Rouge;

B. The problem of territorial integrity and the 1953-69 land and maritime borders, which are not respected by some neighboring countries;

C. The problem of rehabilitating and building the economy and people's livelihood, particularly in the agricultural field, as these situations have deteriorated with each passing year.

III. The above appeal of our nation and people, including the compatriots in Phnom Penh, is fully in line with the king's remark and reflects the deepest aspiration of our nation and people, who desire to see all Cambodian leaders meet, discuss, and consult with each other so as to achieve national reconciliation, national unity, peace, and stability.

The PDK has voiced its full support for this splendid advice from the king and would like to totally welcome the above appeal.

IV. In response to the above aspiration, the PDK would like to inform our nation and people as well as the compatriots in Phnom Penh of its stance as follows:

1. On the urgent roundtable between all Cambodian leaders:

The PDK, as our entire Cambodian nation and people, realizes that in the face of the situation which is deteriorating with each passing day, it is imperative for all Cambodian leaders to urgently meet and talk through a roundtable or consultation in any other form. This will enable us to solve problems step-by-step and achieve national reconciliation, national unity, and unification of national forces, which are the only heavenly medicine—according to His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk's advice—that can cure the serious ailment of our nation.

Lately, the PDK has time and again proposed that all Cambodian leaders meet constantly and hold discussions in various forms. The PDK is ready to meet and hold talks and discussions with all other Cambodian leaders unconditionally through a roundtable or any other appropriate forms of consultation.

The PDK firmly believes that so long as dialogues and discussions are held successively with His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk's assistance and advice, all problems will certainly be resolved gradually and finally can be settled permanently, thus bringing peace and stability to Cambodia and preventing our present-day Cambodia from becoming another Kampuchea Kraom [ancient Cambodian territory annexed by Vietnam].

2. On the request for all Cambodian parties to compromise, accommodate one another, and soften their respective stances:

The PDK, as our nation and people, believes that to achieve national reconciliation, it is imperative for all parties to compromise, accommodate one another, and soften their respective stances in line with the king's advice. At the same time, the PDK realizes that compromise and accommodation are possible only with all parties attending meetings, discussions, and consultations. So long as there are joint meetings, discussions, and consultations on all big and small problems, we will certainly be able to decide which are the most urgent problems and which are the minor problems and how all parties should compromise and accommodate one another on each problem.

This is with the sole aim of rallying all national forces, without exclusion of anyone, so that they are united to become integrated national forces to achieve national reconciliation, peace, and stability. This will also provide sufficient national forces to rehabilitate and rebuild the country and to solve all other national problems.

Availing itself of this occasion, the PDK, in line with the spirit of reconciliation, would like to emphasize that the PDK does not reject the Phnom Penh party; but at the same time, it will not allow any forces to reject the PDK.

3. On the request for a cease-fire and an end to the war and violence:

Our entire nation and people are well aware of the fact that the PDK and Cambodian people have not created the war in the past 13 to 14 years. Nor is it the PDK and the Cambodian people who have continued kindling the flames of war until today.

The PDK, as well as our entire nation and people, fervently wants a cease-fire and a quick end to the war. In the past and at present, the PDK has made every effort to bring about a cease-fire and end the flames of war that the Vietnamese communists and their allies have continued kindling in our country.

The PDK has time and again proposed the establishment of a committee made up of representatives from all parties to be in charge of jointly examining all big and small problems and seeking a step-by-step solution toward achieving a genuine cease-fire, ending the war, and arranging for genuine peace so that our people both in the countryside and the cities can restore and solve their respective economy and livelihood and build and make the country as prosperous as in the time of Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's pre-1970 ruling party].

The PDK has adopted such a stance because it is well aware of the fact that the Vietnamese communists and their allies have continued to kindle the flames of war and incited the Cambodians to fight their fellow Cambodians in an attempt to eliminate various parties and our nation and people. This is aimed at giving the Vietnamese communists a chance to continue slicing off and annexing Cambodia's land, seas, and islands. They will have a chance to send their people to settle in the eastern part of Cambodia and in the interior of Cambodia. At present there are more than three millions Vietnamese settlers. Within the next few years, their number will increase to five, six, and seven million. This is in an attempt to annex Cambodia through demographic warfare.

This is why our people have often said that the Vietnamese communists are pitting the Vietnamese-headed Cambodians to fight the patriotic Cambodians and their friends so that they can send more Vietnamese nationals to annex Cambodia more easily.

V. Our nation and people both inside and outside the country together with the compatriots in Phnom Penh have clearly seen the PDK's stance and great efforts in order to contribute to defending the Cambodian nation and race from being annexed by the Vietnamese communists, despite all difficult and complex situations, and in order to achieve national reconciliation by trying to avoid doing anything that may affect the sacred national reconciliation and unification.

The PDK, as our entire Cambodian nation and people, supports and respects His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk and follows in his footstep in his capacity as the great leader who upholds national salvation banner and leads our Cambodian nation and people to achieve national reconciliation, national unity, and unification of the entire national forces to solve the serious situation facing our Cambodian nation and society.

[Dated] 16 November 1993

[Signed] The PDK

Indonesia

Europarliament Delegation Tours East Timor

BK1311120093 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0910 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Dili, Nov 13 (OANA/ANTARA)—Members of the European Parliament-Indonesia Friendship Association (EPIFA) are expected to help clarify the facts on East Timor to the European Community, Governor Abilio Jose Osojo has said.

Asked for his comment on EPIFA's two-day visit here, the governor said on Saturday that he expected the delegates would not tell incorrect stories to European who are not familiar with conditions in East Timor.

While here from November 9 to 10, the 16-man EPIFA mission headed by their Secretary General James Janssen Van Raax had talks with government authorities, community and tribe chieftains, and local armed forces leaders.

The goverior said he hoped that the EPIFA delegates would be realistic and not tell fabrications on conditions in East Timor which by certain circles in Europe are still pictured as unstable and hampered by many human right violations.

Questioned whether his hope would become true, Abilio said that viewed from the view point of age and experiences gained by the delegates their report writing would be based on facts.

The governor referred to a statement made by the EPIFA vice president Viviane Reddung in a dialogue saying that he would convey the governor's message to the forthcoming meeting between the European Parliament and Portugal.

The governor during the dialogue meeting had requested that the EPIFA delegates convince their Portuguese counterparts about the errors made by Portugal in the past by neglecting the wishes voiced by the East Timor people.

The EPIFA delegates during their current Indonesian trip from November 8 to 14 have in the meantime visited various provinces to see the nation's developmemt achievements.

Attache Discusses Austrian Trade Barriers

BK1411163093 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 1 Nov 93 p 6

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Indonesia is still facing both tariff and non-tariff barriers in exporting its products to Austria.

"It is true that Austria has lowered part of its tariffs but such a move is done merely to meet requirements before joining the Economic Community, Indonesia's trade attache to Austria, J.W. Sitindaon, said here on Saturday.

He said Austria, which has applied for EC membership, is still imposing import duties of about 1.5 to 17 percent on Indonesian products even though that European country has offered its Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) facility on them.

"Coffee, which is eligible for the GSP facility, for example, is subject to an import duty of between six and 15 percent and textile products of between 12 and 17 percent," he said.

He also said non-tariff barriers are imposed on textiles and textile products, including garments and bags.

"Austria first put quotas on Indonesian textile products but then lifted them in October last year, he said.

He said Indonesia's agricultural and pharmaceutical products can enter Austria only after getting approval from the Austrian ministries of agriculture, health and economy.

"Austria also requires the labelling of Indonesian products made of fiber, fur and chemical agents such as detergent. Safety requirements are imposed on electronics, chemicals and pharmaceuticals," he said, adding that there are also monopolistic practices on the sales of cigarettes and liquors.

According to Sitindaon, Austria, as the heart of Europe, is a potential market.

Editorial Comments on Suharto-Rabin Meeting

BK1711104993 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 18 Oct 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Significance of Suharto-Yitzak Rabin Meeting"]

[Text] The introspective meeting between the leader of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM), Suharto, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin on Friday, 15 October was truly brief. The sudden visit was also surrounded by secrecy.

Therefore, this event proved to be awkward and a surprise. Logically, such an incident would give rise to numerous assumptions or poly interpretable [preceding two words in English]. First, it would be among the Indonesian Muslims, who are opposed to the PLO-Israel peace pact.

They would definitely ask why the leader of NAM, who is also the president of the Republic of Indonesia, was too willing to grant the visit by the Israeli prime minister when there are no current bilateral diplomatic relations? Was it conducive for the NAM leader, who is concurrently Indonesia's president, to grant the Israeli prime minister the visit?

What all parties should focus on is the significance of the meeting between the Israeli prime minister and the NAM leader is who initiated this meeting. As far as we know from reliable sources, the meeting was called at Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin's request and initiative. Thus, it was not at the intitiative of nor at the request of the NAM leader or the Indonesian president.

It can be seen how difficult it would be for the NAM leader or the Indonesian president, if one "requests" for a meeting in the effort toward directing the declaration of the principles of the PLO-Isreal peace accord, which was signed by the two parties in Washington. All along we have been acknowledged as one of the nations advocating the establishment of an independent Palestine.

Indisputably, Indonesia is known as one of the peace-loving nations and, in addition to that, it advocates freedom. We are known as a nation which answers the call of we love peace, but freedom more [preceding six words in English].

Therefore, it would not be questionable if the meeting between the two leaders gives rise to numerous presumptions or political assumptions, which could possibly be out of its actual context. For example, it would not come as a surprise if Indonesia had established bilateral diplomatic relations with Israel in advance.

There could also be assumptions that the NAM leader—concurrently the Indonesian president—could be "directed" by Washington. And in such a case, a disturbing political assumption would come from the less satisfied Arab nations. Besides, there could be a possibility of a "misunderstanding."

It has yet to be ascertained how the reaction and assumption would be forthcoming from the Indonesian Muslim community. Apart from this, the discreet Indonesian Muslim community and the world Muslim community in general have their pros and cons with regard to the PLO-Israel peace accord.

Global or regional political reform caused by the signing of the declaration of principles of the PLO-Isreal peace accord was expected since such a change caused a shock. And why not! When a drawn-out conflict, which had lasted for about a century, makes a sudden turn around toward peace.

If we embark on an empirical and historical scrutiny of this, is it not that the post Cold War era desires that all parties or countries not be confrontative with one another in trying to solve their multitudinous differences? Is it not the time now for all differences to be solved through negotiations and dialogues?

In alignment with such an empirical and historical procedure, all parties should continuously advocate the 1945 Constitution, and our nation has the responsibility of maintaining world order and peace. The significance of the meeting between the NAM leader, who is concurrently the Indonesian president, and the Israeli prime minister, which was dynamically valuable, was based on this political trend or political principles.

Indonesia, as one of the founders of the Nonaligned Movement, has proved its leadership capabilities. Basically, the meeting between the NAM leader and the Israeli prime minister distinctly indicated that the Indonesian Government received no exclusive gains or interests in whatever form. All that has been undertaken was for the sake of a Nonaligned Movement member's freedom; that is Palestine.

Editorial Calls for Firmness on Islands

BK1511123393 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 30 Oct 93 p 2

[Editorial: "RI Should Adopt a Firm Attitude"]

[Text] The issue of overlapping claims to the disputed Sipadan Island in East Kalimantan flared up again because Malaysia, in its tourism campaign for 1994, has again included the island as its tourist resort in a booklet entitled "Visit Malaysia Year '94 The Traveller's Guide to Malaysia's Facinating Treasures." Datuk Sabbarudin Chik, Malaysian minister of culture and tourism, wrote the forward in the tourism booklet, which contains offers for visits to the disputed island. The island is claimed by the RI [Republic of Indonesia] and Malaysia.

While the two countries are in the process of negotiating to resolve the issue of the overlapping claim to Sipadan Island, President Suharto and Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamed agreed to observe the status quo. They had reached a consensus during their talks in Langkawi last July. Malaysia, however, is still continuing to promote the island as its tourist destination. In view of this, we can understand why Foreign minister Ali Alatas and several members of the DPR-MPR [House of Representatives-People's Consultative Assembly] reacted strongly to Malaysia's act.

Speaking to newsmen on Friday (29/10) Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Indonesia will send a diplomatic note protesting Malaysia's violation of its commitment to the status quo on Sipadan Island—one that they had mutually agreed to observe.

According to reports, tourist facilities have been developed on Sipadan Island since 1985 by Malaysian companies such as Borneo Dive and Sea Sport, Sabah Siphadan Resort, and Sipadan Dive Comapny Limited. These companies have earned billions of rupiah from the tourism industry. The Malaysian Tourism Department confirmed this some time ago. As a matter of fact, helicopter flight service has been made available between Kota Kinabalu and Sipadan Island.

The size of Sipadan Island is about 12 hectares. The island is situated in the Sulawesi Sea and has a great potential for seaside resorts. Beside being attractive for seaside resorts, the island is known to be a place where turtles come lay their eggs. These are its main resources.

Apart from the Sipadan Island, RI and Malaysia also have overlapping claims to Ligitan Island.

It is interesting to note that on Friday, Ali Alatas said Malaysia's violations of the commitment to observe the status quo over the island always have occurred and had been occurring often. He said Indonesia always reacted to these violations and sent diplomatic notes of protest to Kuala Lumpur. This is to indicate that the violations of the commitment to the status quo, which the RI and Malaysia had mutually agreed to observe long ago, had been occurring every now and then.

It looks as if Malayisa is taking maximum advantage of the tourism potential of Sipadan and Ligitan Islands while the two countries are negotiating to resolved the dispute. This is proven by the reality of tourism facilities on Sipadan Island and their increase from year to year. This includes the mushrooming of resort cottages. A Malaysian Navy unit is based in the area and is actively carrying out routine patrols around the island.

The Indonesian Government has to adopt a more concrete and firm attitude toward Malaysia's infringement of a bilateral accord, considering the failure to observe the status quo over the islands. The RI and Malaysia had mutually agreed to this status quo and even had reached a point of convergence over the overlapping claims issue during a series of joint commission meetings. Indonesia decided to take a firm attitude because the issue of Sipadan and Ligitan Islands is quite serious. In other words, Indonesia's concern does not only revolve around the claim to islands with strategic values. There are other factors that are of interest to Indonesia.

It is, however, very disturbing to know that the status and the territorial integrity of the two islands are not clear. There is no proper law and security order available. It is true that this issue should not be blown out of proportion since Indonesia did agree with Premier Mahathir Mohamed's statement on Sipadan and Ligitan during the meeting with President Suharto in Langkawi last July. He said the issue could be settled amicably should there be a problem between the two countries. The Indonesian Government has been adhering to this principle so far, but in the meantime, unilateral activities [by Malaysia] continue to be stepped up on Sipadan Island.

We have to admit that the unclear status of Sipadan and Ligitan Islands also obstructs Indonesian authorities' efforts to carry out law and order there. Of late, smuggling activities are rampant in the waters around the two islands, and the authorities found it difficult to arrest these smugglers because of Malaysia's investment in Sipadan and Ligitan Islands. While the negotiations on the status of the two islands is yet to be completed, it is difficult for Indonesian authrothies to execute law and order to control the theft of fish and other marine resources within the 300-mile area of its exclusive economic zone, EEZ, in accordance with the 1982 UN Law of the Sea Convention regulation which had been ratified by Indonesia through Law No. 17/1985. It is also difficult for the authorities to stop the smuggling of logs through a sea lane between the two islands.

That is why we said the issue of Sipadan and Ligitan Islands is quite serious. In other words it brings a negative impact on the territorial integrity of Indonesia, as well as hampers efforts to impose law and order, to stop the smuggling activities, and to stop the theft of fish and other marine resources around the two islands.

Based on these reasons, the Indonesian Government should decide to adopt a more concrete and firm attitude when dealing with the issue of Sipadan and Ligitan Islands.

Agency Issues Ruling on Shares Distribution

BK1411090793 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 4 Nov 93 p 9

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—The Capital Market Supervisory Agency (Bapepam) finally issued a ruling here yesterday to guarantee a fair distribution of shares during primary public offering periods.

Bapepam chairman Bacelius Ruru said the new ruling is aimed at eliminating the frequent problem of oversubscription of shares, which has plagued most recent offerings.

Heavy oversubscriptions have resulted in dissatisfaction not only among investors but also among securities companies participating in the public offerings.

According to the new ruling, lead underwriters will act as share allotment managers, which will make them responsible for guaranteeing a fair distribution of shares to applicants.

If the number of shares applied for is more than the shares offered, applicants will, under the new ruling, be guaranteed to receive no less than 500 shares (one lot) each. The allotment manager will then split the remaining shares of those applicants as a proportion of the size of their orders. In the case of very high demand the precludes the guarantee of 500 shares to each investor, there will be a lottery. [sentence as published]

The allotment system is applied to both foreign and domestic investors. Fifty one percent of offered shares are reserved for domestic investors, while foreigners are allowed to buy up to 49 percent of the shares.

Lead underwriters, sale agents and affiliated parties are prohibited from buying for themselves if demand is higher than the amount of offered shares, under the new ruling. They are allowed only to buy for themselves if shares are not fully subscribed. The allotment of the unsubscribed shares to an underwriter and its sales agents will also be carried out under a proportional basis.

Ruru said share allotments can be carried out under a different procedure as long as the procedure is approved by the association of underwriters and is clearly stated in a prospectus.

Officials' Role in Investment Licensing Upheld

BK1411131993 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 3 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Decentralization Power"]

[Text] The public reactions to the October 23 measures that decentralize part of the investment licensing jurisdiction to second-level (regency) administrations have been mixed. The business community and analysts generally support and welcome the moves but with some reservations. The two main points of the qualified welcome—though fundamental issues in the process of administrative decentralization as called for by Law No.5/1974—are actually old issues.

The first point of concern is the fear that most regency administrations will not be competent enough to execute the licensing jurisdiction due to lack of skilled personnel. This shortcoming might result in further delays, instead of a higher efficiency, in the granting of permits. Another reservation is the concern that the decentralization will simply move the "corruption machinery" from the central and provincial administrations to the regency bureaucracy.

We have often heard the argument, notably from central government officials, that regency administrations are simply not ready nor capable yet of executing additional administrative power. But we think the argument lacks legitimacy, especially now when Law No.5/1974 has been in force for about 20 years. Instead, we see the argument as an unreasonable excuse for delaying the redistribution of power to local administrations. We realize that manpower education and training takes a lot of time, but 20 years should have been more than enough to significantly raise the skill levels and competence of regency officials.

Moreover, how can regency administrations attract skilled and bright personnel if the career development system, including training opportunities, for local officials remains inferior to that for central government personnel? How can local officials improve their skills and experiences through learning by doing if the ministries in Jakarta continue to strengthen their presence in the provinces through their provincial offices?

We think the issue regarding the competence of local officials should not necessarily hinder the implementation of decentralization as long as the central government is really serious about properly sharing more of its power with the local administrations. As Aminuddin, the Chairman of the Indonesian Spinners Association, has suggested, the central government, if necessary, should assign officials from Jakarta to conduct on the job training for local officials. After all, he argued, the packages of deregulation measures and bureaucratic reforms launched since 1985 have left many officials in Jakarta with almost nothing else to do. Why are their skills and experiences not being used to train local officials?

The fear that the decentralization will simply move the "malfeasance machinery" from Jakarta and the provincial capital cities to regency administrations seems naive as we all know that the process of building up an honest government still has a long, long way to go. Actually, the main problem is that because local administrations rely on transfers from the central government for more than 80 percent of their budget, local officials often don't see any direct benefits from private investment projects in their areas. Hence, they often do not feel any need to work harder to attract more private investments to their areas. After all, the bulk of corporate taxes (income and value added taxes) are administered by and paid directly to the central government.

Therefore, instead of continuing the debates on whether regency administrations would be able to properly execute the licensing jurisdiction accorded them by the recent deregulation measures, the central government should work harder to help them accomplish their jobs.

We often do not realize that decentralization also contributes to strengthening political stability because it brings the decision making process closer to the people and enables the process to fully accommodate the aspirations and interests of the people. The better regency development policies accommodate and reflect the interests of the people, the stronger will be the public's participation in the development process.

Laos

River Project Agreement Signed With Australia

BK1211090093 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] On 8 November, a ceremony was held at the office of the Planning and Cooperation Committee in Vientiane to mark the signing of a Lao-Australian agreement on the implementation, in the third phase, of the Nam Theun river-2 development project. Signing on behalf of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] Government was Leuan Sombounkhan, vice chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee, while signing for the Australian side was (Peter Dosiono Walke), project service chief of the (Palankin International Company) of Australia. The signing ceremony was held in the presence of Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee, and Michael Mann, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Australia to the LPDR. The ceremony was also attended by a number of high-ranking officials of the two sides.

The said agreement stipulates that to step up implementing the Nam Theun river-2 development project in two years—1993 to 1995, the two sides has agreed to the following: The (Palankin Company) must be held responsible for the development work of the project in all fields, such as the technical, local development, and environment work. In this regard, the Australian company must coordinate with the Lao Government as the center in contacting other agencies concerned to provide management service and organize technical specialists to comprehensively work in the said development project. The company must appropriately make preparations for the fulfillment of the project within the two years, and report, on a regular basis, the progress of the implementation to the Lao Government. It must study the possibility and suitability of carrying out the development work, such as the limit of floods in the Se Bangfai River and its tributaries by working out irrigation program for crop cultivation and the repairing of route 8-B. It must also estimate the loss caused by the floods and seek measures to restrict the loss that might affect the nature and environments, in particular crops and wildlife.

For the Lao side, it must supply the company with necessary items for the development project, such as the approval of licenses, the providing of rental places and facilities for the technical experts, and the granting of permission for the experts to travel and use routes. In addition, Lao officials must work closely with the technicians of the (Palankin Company) to seek possible means to develop the rural areas to meet the requirements of local people, manage forests, move the people from construction sites, and lay out plans for crop cultivation, livestock breeding, irrigation system, and wood exploitation.

The two sides also jointly signed nine more agreements related to the Nam Theun river-2 development project. They include an agreement on joint ventures, an agreement on buying and selling electric power, an agreement on an assurance of energy, an agreement on utilization obligations, an agreement on actual implementation, an agreement on use of water, an agreement on an assurance of water, an agreement on rental properties, and an agreement on the obligations concerning the utilization and maintenance of facilities.

Khamsai Souphanouvong Report to Assembly

Third Installment

BK1611132793 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 21 Oct 93 p 3

[Third installment of report by Finance Minister Khamsai Souphanouvong to the second ordinary session of the third National Assembly convened in Vientiane from 27 September to 8 October, entitled: "The Implementation of the 1992-93 State Budget and the Draft 1993-94 State Budget—date not given]

[Text] 2. Salary Expenses:

Over the past 10 months, along with attentively striving to mobilize revenue resources, the government has stepped up efforts to direct the organizing work for the effective implementation of the budget. The government has also made a high determination to settle the state expenditures. Through a scrupulous consideration, eventually, it has basically settled problems concerning the requisition of salaries and other extra-wage allowances.

3. Expenses on Interests and Loan Capitals:

Expenses have been paid for interests and capitals of internal and foreign loans. Expenses on foreign debt payments have been paid regularly. An amount of money to be paid for this purpose is estimated at 9.9 billion kips. An estimated amount of money to be paid for the interests of the government's loans is 3.6 billion kips.

4. Expenses on Infrastructure Construction:

Internal and foreign capitals have been employed for an investment in the construction of the lower socioeconomic structure. Most of the foreign capital is loans obtained from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank in addition to the funds given as gratis aid by governments of foreign countries and international organizations. The total amount of the foreign capital to be used for this purpose is estimated at $81.9 millions or equivalent to 44.3 billion kips.

The amount of the internal capital expected to be used to cover the infrastructure construction work in accordance with the annual plan is 21.44 billion kips.

5. Executive and Technical Expenses:

As the revenue cannot be gained as expected, the expenses for repairing a number of offices and for technical work that is not obviously necessary have been delayed until next year. It is, therefore, expected that the annual plan for the executive and technical expenses will be fulfilled by 96.4 percent.

6. Expenses on the Policy Toward Society:

The expenses for the policy toward society include the allowances for cadres, allowances for students, costs of medicine and medical treatment for hospital inpatients, allowances for disabled cadres, relief money for people who suffer from natural calamities or fires. It is estimated that the total expenses will be 12.6 billion kips.

7. Pensions for the Building of Family Economy:

Implementing the line of consolidating and simplifying state apparatuses and making them competent, a budget plan with the total amount of 3.0 billion kips has been worked out. This amount of money is to be paid to imminent retirees. It is estimated that the total expenses to serve this purpose for this fiscal year will be 2.15 billion kips.

Part II. Certain Basic Financial Plans and Objectives for 1994

I. The Economic, Financial, and Budget Plans:

Further implementing the socioeconomic development plan for the 1993-2000 period as stated by the prime minister at the inaugural session of the National Assembly in February this year, strategic goals are to establish a new economic structure; continually and consistently expand the economy by putting an enphasis on the production of goods for consumption and export; maintain the financial stability by basing on the practical conditions of the country, concrete experiences of the nation, and actual management capabilities of the financial branch as well as of other branches of service with view to ensuring the fulfillment of the two strategic tasks of defending and building the country.

1. The Macroeconomic Objectives:

Since the establishment of the popular democratic republic system, our country has maintained political stability that is considered a basic condition for the economic, cultural, and social development and expansion. Based on this, in the economic field, the macroeconomic objectives remain to be the followings: 1) guarantee the economic development with the actual percentage of increase of 7 to 8 per year; 2) continue to control inflation; 3) reduce the imbalance of payments with foreign countries by vigorously boosting the export; and 4) step up the state accumulation of foreign currencies.

Our national economy has, for many consecutive years, been continuously and consistently developed at the rate of 6 to 7 percent per year. Should we continue to follow the party's line on comprehensive restructuring, there will be a very high possibility for our economy to be further developed at the said rate.

The control of inflation is considered to be the main economic target that must be fulfilled with a view to promoting the production and investment and ensuring the purchasing power of those who depend only on salaries. The government has successfully reduced the inflation rate from 82 percent in late 1989 to 6 percent in late 1992. It is expected that the inflation will remain at the percentage of 6 to 7 in late 1993. Next year, as reported at the National Assembly session in February this year, the government will continue to set forth and pursue a policy that is aimed at controlling the inflation rate to remain under 10 percent per year.

To successfully fulfill the aforesaid macroeconomic objectives, it is necessary for us to continue consolidating the financial and currency plans and policy which have been initiated after the government has put forth the comprehensive restructuring line. We must also continue to set up a legal basis on business affairs and to improve the financial mechanism and apparatuses to make them to be ever more effective.

Fourth Installment

BK1611133793 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 22 Oct 93 p 3

[Fourth installment of "report" by Finance Minister Khamsai Souphanouvong to the Second Ordinary Session of the Third National Assembly convened in Vientiane from 27 September to 8 October 1993, entitled: "The Implementation of the 1992-93 State Budget and the Draft 1993-94 State Budget"—date not given]

[Text] 2. The finance policy and some objectives of the budget:

To heighten a sense of self-mastership and self-building and to take the initiative in organizing the transformation into the new management mechanisms in general, and into the scope of budget work in particular, the finance policy in the coming years must be aimed at extracting revenue from the domestic economy to increase state savings.

At present, the revenue for the budget accounts for between 10 and 11 percent of the overall domestic products. Our goal is to raise this percentage up to the target of between 13 and 14 percent in 1995. Beginning in 1993, the state budget is able to begin setting aside some savings for investment. This means that the internal revenue is larger than the daily expenditure, thus leaving surplus earning as savings for investment.

As for the expenditure of the budget, the government is determined to raise the living standard of cadres, soldiers, and policemen by attempting to resolve the problems regarding salaries. But the solution of the problems of salaries is also based on the abilities to generate revenue by the national economy by means of eliminating certain state-financed expenses, such as budget funds for purchasing fuel oil, repairing shelters, and paying electricity bills for state employees as well as of cutting down extravagant spendings.

We must continue the implementation of the policy of transforming the state economy to be under a new and more effective form of management with better plans. At the same time, efforts must be made to ensure the functioning of the legitimate free trade and to create favorable conditions for both internal and foreign investment.

3. The monetary policy:

To control inflation, the monetary sector must continue to implement the policy on careful printing of banknotes by basing this practice on a credit policy to ensure the effectiveness of the economy. It must also continue paying interest on positive loans and adopt measures to ensure the stabilization of the exchange rates between the kip and foreign currencies.

4. The legal foundation and the consolidation of the monetary management mechanism:

In the recent past, the National Assembly has endorsed a number of laws while the government has also issued a number of decrees in the economic field to ensure the legitimate rights and interests of the people and business operators. This process must be continued with a view to finally eliminating all obstacles to business operations by all sectors. At the same time, attention must be made to consolidate the management mechanisms of the state's finance and budget.

5. The need for loans:

The fulfillment of the aforementioned macroeconomic targets requires a considerable amount of capital. In view of this requirement, I am certain that we are able to acquire capital from some sources to generate the annual economic growth rate of between 7 and 8 percent while our monetary stability is still retained. Conditions set by monetary sources from export businesses, foreign investment, and banking services still remain sound. Gratis aid from foreign countries still remains in the region of U.S. $60 million per year while loans with low interest rates from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are estimated to be between U.S. $100 and $110 million annually. Our government has received assistance from the IMF in the form of loans with low interest rates to offset foreign debts and also has an opportunity to acquire macro loans from the World Bank and the ADB.

Fifth Installment

BK1611135993 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 23 Oct 93 p 3

[Fifth installment of "report" by Finance Minister Khamsai Souphanouvong to the Second Ordinary Session of the Third National Assembly convened in Vientiane from 27 September to 8 October, entitled: "The Implementaion of the 1992-93 State Budget and the Draft 1993-94 State Budget"—date not given]

[Text] Therefore, from now to 1995, the government has secured capital sources for developing the national economy and upgrading the living conditions of cadres, soldiers, policemen, and the multiethnic people.

II. Projected figure of revenue for the 1993-94 fiscal year:

All the above-mentioned has become a factor conducive to the construction of the 1993-94 fiscal year budget. Particularly, the calculation of the budget is based on the existing policies or those promulgated for implementation during the first to the fifth months of 1993. At the same time, more revenue is expected to be collected as a result of the revision of these policies and the improvement of the mechanisms and apparatuses for revenue collection, thus increasing their efficiency.

1. Policies to increase revenue:

In 1993, agreeing with the proposal of the Ministry of Finance, the government issued a decree approving a number of policies on tax and tariff, which form the basis for an increase in sources for budget revenue. For the next year budget, they have proposed a number of methods to adjust tax and tariff rates, thus improving our tax and tariff policies. These include the adjustment of rates of import taxes, tariff rates for consuming certain kinds of goods, and fees for registration of business enterprises.

2. The basis for calculating revenue for the budget:

Our estimation of the revenue for the fiscal year 1993-94 is based on three factors. The first factor is the tempo of this year's national economic development with an economic growth rate of 13-14 percent. This has constituted a basis for the collection of various taxes and tariffs. The second is the amount of money to gain from the implementation of the new tax policies during the first and fifth month of 1993 and the above-mentioned adjustment of some tax and tariff rates. The third factor attributed to the increase in revenue is the improvement of financial mechanisms, which will bring about greater efficiency in mobilizing earnings. With these three factors, the earnings from collection of taxes and tariffs in the 1993-94 fiscal year would increase considerably by an average rate of 21 percent when compared to that of the previous year.

Based on last year's figures and the said increase of earnings, the total revenue for the fiscal year 1993-94 has been estimated at 142.0 billion kips, an increase by 16.7 percent from that of the previous year. Of this amount, the total earnings from tax and tariff collection is estimated to be 80.23 billion kips and earnings from other sources other than taxes and tarifs 61.77 billion kips.

3. Tax and tariff earnings:

The total earnings from tax and tariff collection is estimated at 80.23 billion kips, an increase by 21.8 percent from that of the previous year.

Direct taxes and fees:

The combined total of taxes collected from earnings of companies and individuals, such as profit taxes, salary taxes, rent taxes, patent taxes, land taxes, and taxes from other sourses has been estimated at 23.96 billion kips, an increase by 35 percent from the previous year. Of this figure, the collection of land taxes, which is expected to generate larger revenue than from any other sources, is estimated at 4.4 billion kips, according to a confirmation made by all the provinces and Vientiane Muncipality. The collection of income taxes is expected to increase by 29 percent, basically resulting from the improvement of the tax collection mechanisms and from rapid economic growth.

Indirect taxes and fees:

Taxes collected from business transaction dealings, such as service taxes and natural resource taxes, and various fees are projected at 25.77 billion kips, an increase of 29 percent from the previous year. Of the figure, the total taxes from business dealings are expected at about 17.8

percent owing to economic growth and upgraded work efficiency of tax mechanism. In addition, the implementation of a new policy in collecting fees from registration of contracts is expected to be fully accomplished.

Import taxes and export tariffs:

In light of the current rate of our economic growth, demand for imported goods for consumption and investment will certainly rise. A total of 26.5 billion kips is estimated to be collected from import taxes, representing an increase by 23.5 percent from last year.

The collection of export tariffs, mainly from exporting electricity (3.1 billion kips), livestock, industrial goods, and agricultural produces, is estimated at 4 billion kips.

4. Revenue other than taxes:

Revenue other than taxes is expected to be about 31.77 billion kips, a decrease of 11.6 percent compared to that of the previous year. This is because the revenue collected from selling of state enterprises will be less than that of the previous year. The estimated revenue other than taxes will be as follows:

a. Revenue from leasing of state enterprises and other state property, and state services—14.5 billion kips.

b. Earnings gained from sharing of profits made by state enterprises and interests from state loans granted to other business enterprises—7.5 billion kips.

c. Income made from selling state property for business purposes and repayment of loans from business enterprises - 9.7 billion kips.

5. Revenue from sale of timber:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will propose to the government to carry out timber extraction mainly from the Nam Ngum Reservoir and the Nam Theun Reservoir. This is expected to earn 30.0 billion kips for the state.

Regarding this, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has mapped out a package of measures to ensure that the timber extraction will comply with the country's environmental conservation policy.

III. 1993-94 Fiscal year budget plan

The special characteristic in the draft 1993-1994 budget plan is to use revenue collected from inside the country to offset the daily expenditure (salaries and administrative budget) with a portion of surplus budget set aside for investment. Funds from foreign sources (aid and loans) will be used for investment by the state only.

A. The balancing of budget for administrative expense and regular expense:

The draft 1993-1994 budget plan defines that 130.34 billion kips of the budget is set aside as regular expenditure and that the excessive budget of 11.66 billion kips as funds for investment by the state. Compared to the previous year, the budget for regular expenditure increases by 19.7 percent.

1. Expenditure for salaries and subsidies:

The government plans to resolve the problems on salaries and subsidies by spending 53.00 billion kips for this purpose—an increase of 20.2 percent compared to similar budget of the previous budget.

PASASON on Air Defense Record 1961-93

BK1411104193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Article from undated PASASON: "32 Heroic Years of the Air Defense Combat Unit"]

[Summary] In 1960, the neocolonialists began implementing a notorious and cunning scheme in their aggression against Laos. They stepped up their war of aggression against the heroic Lao people with the hope of completely destroying the Lao people's revolutionary forces.

Carrying out an order of the supreme command of the Free Lao Front, on 18 October 1991, the first air defense battalion was established at Ban Nong Nam village, Pek District, Xieng Khouang Province, under the command of Comrade Chan and Comrade Simeuang. The battalion consisted of three companies—two armed with 3.7-MM guns and another with 12.8-MM guns.

"Right after its formation, the battalion began its air war against the enemies. The first company was assigned to immediately fight against the enemy aircraft over the skies of Khangkhai in Xieng Khouang Province. An F-101 plane, considered at that time to be the most modern war plane ever produced by the United States, was shot down over Xieng Khouang Province. It was the first plane of that type ever shot down in Indochina."

"On 24 June 1964, the operation for the liberation of the Plain of Jars was launched. Coordinating with infantry forces, the air defense battalion intercepted the retreating enemy remnants from the Plain of Jars, Meuang Soui, Lai Ngon, Se Pa, Khoua Lek, and Ho Namyen. In November 1964, the enemies launched attacks against the Phou Kout area with their air power, artillery pieces, and infantry forces several times larger than our forces." During the fighting, Comrade Phimmason, a young fighter, managed to damage a T-28 aircraft with his 12.8-MM gun. All in all during the fighting, the battalion shot down five T-28 aircraft and damaged seven others.

"From 1961 to 1973, the battalion fought 1,055 air battles against enemy forces, shooting down 285 war planes of all types, capturing, killing, and forcing the surrender of several hundred enemy elements, and destroying a large quantity of war materiel."

From 1973 to 1993, the battalion has made significant contributions to fulfilling the tasks of national defense and construction. During this period, "it engaged in two air battles against enemy forces, damaging five enemy planes and shooting down two others, capturing two pilots, and killing five enemy elements."

Aircraft Downed During War Recalled, 1962-69

BK1711061593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 2330 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Feature in "special program dedicated to the 45th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Army": "Heroic, Glorious Deeds of Antiaircraft Battalion 601"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] To oppose the bellicose schemes and acts of the enemies, the then supreme command of the Lao People's Liberation Armed Forces set up Air Defense Battalion 601 on 18 October 1961. At the beginning, it was manned by only 79 comrades and consisted of three companies, namely companies 1, 2, and 4. Two companies were equipped with 3.7-mm guns while another one was equipped with 12.8-mm guns. They were assigned to be stationed and to carry out combat activities in Khang Khai, Phon Savan, Ban Ang, and Ban Dong areas in Pek District, Xieng Khouang Province.

On 19 April 1962, combatants of the first company, which was stationed in the Khang Khai fortification, fought the enemy air pirates for the first time. They shot down one F-101 plane with only four rounds of ammunition. It was the first plane ever shot down in Laos. That victory greatly encouraged the combatants.

Later, on 24 June 1964, the supreme command ordered the three companies to liberate the Plain of Jars. [passage omitted] The attack was launched, and it continued in a fierce, and life-and-death manner. Finally, our patriotic armed forces won a glorious victory. Following the operations, combatants of Antiaircraft Battalion 601 scored heroic and glorious deeds, downing five enemy T-28's, damaging 10 others, destroying three armored cars, and instantly killing 28 enemy soldiers in cars.

Based on the combat requirements and the growth and development of our army, in May 1965, the higher echelon set up another company—company 3. [passage omitted] A few months later, the enemies launched attacks against Phou Kout. They employed eight battalion infantries in coordination with the artillery of Thai mercenaries. The attacks were supported by the U.S. air force which resorted to using B-57 strategic aircraft to bomb and strafe the transportation route linking Nong Het and Khang Khai. [passage omitted] The imperialist aggressors and their henchmen suffered a painful defeat in the operations. In Phou Kout, combatants of Antiaircraft Battalion 601 shot down 19 enemy aircraft and destroyed 57 others on the ground. In (Ta Pek), they shot down one B-57 and destroyed two other aircraft on the ground.

From late 1966 to early 1967, the enemy launched very fierce operations against Ngan District. The battalion assigned a platoon of forces from company 4 to disrupt the enemy operations in the Phou Moun area where they were engaged in fierce fighting against the enemies, both on the land and in the air. They shot and downed three T-28's and damaged (?15) others. [passage omitted]

In 1969, the enemies launched the Koukiet nibbling operation against the Plain of Jars. Acting on orders from the regional command, the battalion, equipped with infantry guns, coordinated with Battalion 2 in launching counterattacks against the enemies to defend the position. [passage omitted] The Koukiet operation was finally crushed and defeated. The antiaircraft battalion scored heroic and glorious deeds. Combatants of company 4 shot down one (?L-19) plane while combatants of company 1, who fought the enemies at peak 1300, killed (?28) enemy soldiers, wounded six others, and seized many items of military equipment. At the same time, combatants of company 3, fighting the enemies at the Phou Phalai area, killed nine enemy soldiers and seized 10 guns. [passage omitted]

Philippines

Ramos Unveils Plan for Filipinos in U.S.

BK1711051793 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 15 Nov 93 p 9

[By Booma Cruz]

[Text] New York, New York (via PLDT [Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.])—President Ramos yesterday unveiled plans to form a steering committee that would serve to unite all Filipino-American organizations here en route to tapping the expatriates' resources for possible investment projects in the Philippines.

At a press conference at The Plaza Hotel, Mr. Ramos said he had already proposed the formation of a steering council that would unite the more than 3,000 Filipino-American organizations throughout the United States. He said the council would divide tasks, address Filipino concerns in the Philippines and in the United States and line up investment projects in the Philippines to be funded by Filipino expatriates in the East and West Coasts.

The chief executive pointed out that the 2.2 million Filipino expatriates in the United States could always be a force to reckon with here and in the Philippines once it unites under a common umbrella organization. He noted that Filipinos in San Francisco are slowly recognizing the importance of unity in numbers with the successful election bids of prominent Filipinos to public office.

The president said the political clout of the Filipino-Americans could even send a compatriot to the U.S. Senate. But more important for the Philippines would be a sole Filipino-American organization that could be persuaded to invest in big projects of the government back home, similar to those supposed to be undertaken by six Chinese-Filipino businessmen who were persuaded by Mr. Ramos to work together and form a consortium.

Mr. Ramos has called on the Filipino-American community, particularly the professionals, to give the Philippines a second look and invest in worthwhile projects and businesses.

Westinghouse Nuclear Trial Set for Feb 94

BK1711055193 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 15 Nov 93 pp 17, 18

[By Gerry Lirio]

[Text] An arbitration panel in Switzerland will begin trying in February next year allegations of the Philippine government that Westinghouse Electric Corporation of the United States had built an unsafe and defective nuclear power plant in Morong, Bataan.

Solicitor General Raul Goco said the government and Westinghouse officials firmed up the trial schedule during a pretrial conference last 9 and 10 November in Geneva. The trial will be held in Lausanne, capital of Vaud Canton, a trade and commercial center located west of Switzerland.

Swiss lawyer Claude Reymond is head of the arbitration panel, which will try the case under the auspices of the International Chamber of Commerce.

Claude reportedly inquired about the progress of the negotiations between the government and Westinghouse to forge a compromise agreement. The negotiation has been suspended and will resume on 26 November.

Westinghouse asked the government to drop the suits it filed against the U.S. company in connection with the Bataan nuclear plant in exchange for two 1OO-megawatt gas turbines worth $49.5 million.

During the pretrial conference, both the Philippine and Westinghouse panels were aided by a battery of lawyers from the United States, France, and Switzerland.

Reymond said the trial proper will begin on the last week of February 1994 and is expected to end on the first week of the following month. Both panels will be given one week each to present their evidence to the arbitrary tribunal.

The National Power Corporation will provide testimonies and documentary evidence to prove its claims that the controversial 600-megawatt nuclear plant was defective and unsafe.

In May 1994, the parties are scheduled to submit their posttrial brief.

The arbitration tribunal is expected to hand down its ruling sometime in September or October 1994.

Cease-Fire To Cover Only Misuari Forces

BK1711051193 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 Nov 93 p 16

[By Dave Veridiano]

[Text] Renegade members of the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] and other Muslim rebel groups are not covered by the cease-fire agreement between the government and the MNLF. They will continue to be the targets of police and military operations.

Armed Forces Chief Gen. Lisandro Abadia said government troops will still run after renegade MNLF factions and non-MNLF rebel groups in Mindanao involved in criminal activities.

The other major Muslim separatist group operating in Mindanao is the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which Abadia said "is not covered by the now in effect truce agreement recently forged in Indonesia."

Abadia said the military policy to run after the renegade Muslim rebels who turned to banditry will remain even as the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] prepares to implement the cease-fire agreement.

"The AFP is now packaging a re-designed agreement on cessation of hostilities in the South to strengthen the cease-fire accord with the MNLF," Abadia said.

Earlier, Department of National Defense [DND] sources said government and MNLF representatives have agreed to form a committee which will monitor the implementation of the cease-fire agreement and watch for possible violations.

The committee will be composed of MNLF representatives and officials from the DND and the Department of Interior and Local Government.

One of its tasks will be to ensure that no hostilities take place between government troops and the MNLF. Government representatives and the MNLF will continue talks for a final peace agreement in Mindanao. The two sides agreed that the proposed economic development programs in Mindanao would not take off if fighting continues between Muslim rebel groups and the government.

Misuari [MNLF chief] is expected to arrive in the country not later than 6 December to sit down with government panels to hammer out the details of the cease-fire agreement signed in Jakarta, Indonesia. But Abadia said that there is no need to design a new cease-fire agreement with the MNLF because there is an existing cease-fire agreement between the government and the MNLF.

Former President Corazon Aquino entered into a cease-fire agreement with Misuari when they met in Sulu in 1986. Military officials claimed that the 1986 truce is "in force" but said it has been violated by the so-called MNLF Lost Commands and breakaway groups as well as Moro bandits.

Abadia and PNP [Philippine National Police] Chief Director General Umberto Rodriguez met with their top officials Thursday and Friday in Camps Aguinaldo and Crame to "package the redesigned truce agreement." But if ever, the new truce would cover only the MNLF forces and not the breakaway Moro factions and bandits, Abadia said.

Over 50 people, mostly farmers, have been killed and many homes of civilians have been razed to the ground by the breakaway groups and bandits in attacks around Sultan Kudarat and the two Cotabato provinces during the past few days.

Camp Aguinaldo officials said these groups would be hunted even during the cease-fire period.

The same officials said the cease-fire agreement will initially cover only the forces of the MNLF under Misuari who are operating in Mindanao.

Armed Men Kill 13 People in Lanao del Sur

BK1711092593 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 13 Nov 93 p B-13

[By Nonoy Lacson]

[Text] Zamboanga City—AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Southern Command [Southcom] Chief Lt. Gen. Thelmo Cunanan has ordered a manhunt for the armed men believed to be members of a Moro National Liberation Front's (MNLF) lost command, who ambushed and killed 13 persons and wounded 10 others, mostly employees of the Findlay Millar Corp., at sitio [district of a village] New Malingao, barangay [village] Uyaan, Madamba, Lanao del Sur last Tuesday. He also condemned the attack, saying that the killers had killed innocent civilians who did not have the capability to fight an armed band like them.

Killed during the ambush were Francisco Alapan, Ruel Algacan, Felix Caburay, Gaudencio Duarte, Romeo Fuentes, Feliciano Gula, Rodolfo Jurane, Siegrefredo Jurane, Cresencio Lubitad Jr., Marcelo Manimbo, Francisco Pestano, Reynaldo Regencia, and Benedicto Rossel.

Wounded were Urbano Baljadia, Cesar Enoy, Mariano Kodemos, Cresencio Lubitad Sr., Mario Paglinawan, Pedro Rossel, Ronito Sonsona, Raul Tampaneng, Rosel Torselada and Benjamin Villarta.

The Southcom chief said that military and police probers are still looking into the motive of the killings.

Rep. [Representative] Ali Dimaporo and other local officials expressed full support for the operations against the ambushers.

NPA Ranking Officer Arrested in Pasay City

BK1711093393 Quezon City MALAYA in English 14 Nov 93 pp 1, 2

[By Nelson De Guzman]

[Text] A ranking officer of the communist New People's Army [NPA] tagged responsible for the ambush-slay of U.S. Army Col. James Nicholas Rowe and assassination of Maj. Gen. Tomas Karingal was arrested Friday by police intelligence operatives in Pasay City.

Virgilio Dakila, alleged chief of the NPA's General Command-Special Operations Section, was on his way to a clandestine meeting with rebel comrades when operatives pounced on him on F.B. Harrison road.

Chief Superintendent Jewel Canson, National Police intelligence chief, said Dakila carried a P500,000 [Philippine pesos] reward for his capture.

The arrest of Dakila brought to three the number of rebels charged with the murder of Rowe, who was shot dead about 100 meters from the headquarters of the Joint U.S. Military Action Group [JUSMAG] in Quezon City on 21 April 1989.

Whether planned or just pure coincidence, Dakila's arrest could prove to be a plus factor for President Ramos, currently on a 14-day working visit to the United States aimed at luring back American investors to the Philippines.

On the other hand, the arrest may give Americans the chance to force the issue of whether or not the Philippine Government should grant amnesty to his assailants.

Two other suspected rebels—Juanito Itaas and Donato Continente—have been convicted of the Rowe murder and have applied for amnesty being offered by government to both rightist and leftist rebels.

The U.S. Government has asked government not to grant amnesty to the suspects, saying they had killed a diplomat. Rowe was ground forces chief of JUSMAG at the time he was killed.

Canson cited intelligence reports that Dakila and his group were about to stage another bank robbery in Metro Manila and were scheduled to meet in an undisclosed place somewhere in Pasay City. Dakila was unarmed when he was arrested.

Director-General Umberto Rodriguez, PNP [Philippine National Police] chief, said Dakila and his group were also responsible for the killing of Karingal, former Northern Police District chief, at the Fishermen's Reef restaurant in Quezon City on 24 May 1984.

The NPA had owned responsibility for the killing of Rowe, saying he was involved in the government's counter-insurgency campaign; and for the assassination of Karingal, who had ordered the dispersal of workers' pickets in several firms in Malabon and Valenzuela.

Rodriguez said Dakila's group was also responsible for the killing of four University of the Philippines professors in Tacloban City in May 1985. It was also said to be responsible for the foiled kidnapping attempt on former French Ambassador to Manila Jacques Le Blanc, and the bombing attempt on the U.S. Navy Communication relay station at Mt. Kabayao in Benguet in 1989.

Dakila, whose code name in the NPA is reportedly "N-3", was also behind the robbery of the Philippine National Bank Ormoc branch in 1985, and the killing of a policeman in MacArthur town in Leyte in April 1985, Rodriguez said.

Communists Denounce Factionalists in Group

BK1311111893 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 9 Nov 93 p 12

[By Carla P. Gomez]

[Text] Bacolod City—Sixteen leaders of National Democratic Front [NDF] affiliated sectoral and mass organizations have rejected the factionalism within the revolutionary movement. In a press statement, they urged their comrades to also reject moves that would split the NDF and the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and instead consolidate their ranks. The 16 organizations represented by the statement's signatories also declared their continued recognition of and respect for the leadership of rebel priests Frank Fernandez and Luis Jalandoni.

They issued the statement to make known their sentiments and stand on the declaration of autonomy made by "a few former leaders" of the revolutionary movement.

They singled out Arturo Tabara, alias Victor del Mar, chairman of the CPP Visayas Commission, and other NDF/CPP leaders who joined him in separating from the current CPP Central Committee. Among those who joined Tabara were the CPP-Negros Regional Party Committee, the democratic bloc within the CPP-Panay Regional Party Committee and the new CPP-Central Visayas Party Committee. The 16 NDF sectoral leaders stressed that NDF-Negros continues to embody and advance the genuine national democratic interests and aspirations of the revolution.

They said they continue to stand and defend the principles, mandates and Constitution of the NDF national organization. They scored the "factionalists" for usurping the NDF's name and for violating the democratic processes of the organization. They described the declaration of autonomy of CPP leaders opposed to Jose Ma. Sison as a "vain attempt to impose their will to the organization."

The people in the factionalist group who claim to represent the NDF were never elected and are neither authorized nor have the right to speak for it, the 16 [as published] said.

In fact, they said, the "ring leader (Tabara)" of the gang and those who claim to represent the NDF were expelled by the CPP Central Committee effective July 1993. They said the factionalists only "insulted" the dignity of all revolutionary organizations and also caused disunity and confusion within the revolutionary ranks.

The statement also hit the factionalists for attempting to split the revolutionary movement and erode the political and socio-economic advances and victories of the masses in their long struggle for true national liberation. The signatories urged their comrades and the masses to continue their struggle and to protect and defend the integrity of the NDF against the attacks of the "fascist gang (of ex-NDF/CPP leaders)" and the "U.S.-Ramos Regime."

They were led by Bonifacio Proletaryo, chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions-Negros Occidental, and Dionisio Labrador, chairman of the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Magsasaka-Negros Occidental [National Movement of Farmers-Negros Occidental].

NPA on 'Rampage' After Losing CPP Funds

BK1711054593 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 Nov 93 p 15

[By Carla P. Gomez]

[Text] Bacolod City—The New People's Army [NPA] in Negros is "on a rampage" having been deprived of support from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], according to a Negros Island Command [NICOM] officer. Fund support from the top was cut off since NPA [New People's Army] commanders in the island aligned with the breakaway faction within the CPP, said Colonel Douglas Rosete, NICOM deputy commander for civil military operations.

Rosete said the series of recent robbery incidents in remote areas of Negros, victimizing beer and softdrink delivery trucks, passenger buses and businessmen, indicates the NPA is needing funds. He [Rosete] cited the robbery last week of passengers of a Ceres Liner bus in Kabankalan, Negros Occidental. "The NPA only degraded itself into an Anti-People's Army," he said.

Rosete described the robbery incidents as "pure and simple banditry." "There is no need for this if the rebels only heed the clamor of society for them to return to the fold of the law," he said. Rosete said the NPA's are on a rampage because "they want to show they are still a force to be reckoned with even if they are starving."

Negros Mayors To Promote Talks With Rebels

BK1411110193 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 10 Nov 93 p 21

[By Carla P. Gomez]

[Text] Bacolod City—Mayors in southern Negros have agreed to spearhead dialogs with rebels to hasten the peace efforts of the government, disclosed Brig. Gen. Ramberto Saavedra, chief of the Negros Island Command [NICOM]. Saavedra said his three-day visit to the southern towns of Negros Occidental and Oriental was fruitful because of the assurances made by mayors. But he admitted difficulty in making a breakthrough in the dialog with Negros leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] because of the volatile situation now.

CPP-Negros leaders earlier declared autonomy from the CPP Central Committee controlled by Armando Liwanag, alleged nom de guerre of CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison.

"As long as there is constant contact and dialog between the rebels and the mayors, the chances of achieving peace is very strong," Saavedra told reporters.

Saavedra said the southern mayors told him that there was a spillover of rebels in the Oriental side from the Occidental side. But he said there were also reports that the rebels coming from remote barangays [villages] in the towns of Kabankalan and Ilog were only on a foraging mission. Saavedra claimed Oriental residents are no longer cooperative with the rebels. He cited the recent case of a New People's Army [NPA] commander in Ayungon, Negros Oriental who was stabbed by the owner of the house where he was staying.

An Uzi machine pistol was taken from the NPA commander. The report, however, was still being verified as of press time Monday.

Meanwhile, Col. Douglas Rosete, NICOM deputy commander for civil-military operations, disclosed the resurfacing of pro-Sison forces in Negros.

"It is an indication of a continuing power struggle within the rebel movement," he told reporters. Even if the CPP breakaway group will form a new party, Rosete said, the government is ready to deal with them.

Saavedra stressed that the government and the military will not give in to any demands of rebels if they are outside the framework of the Constitution. He also reiterated the assurance he gave to the mayors that the Army will never be pulled out of Negros as long as the insurgency is not reduced to a police problem.

Roundup of Rebel Activities for 6-12 Nov

BK1611104093

[Editorial Report] The following is a roundup of reports of Philippine rebel activities from Philippine media monitored by Bangkok Bureau between 6-12 November. Source information is given in parentheses at the end of each item.

6-8 November

No fileworthy items monitored.

9 November

Policemen and Army troopers clashed with some 30 New People's Army (NPA) rebels in a village in Ilocos Norte, resulting in the serious wounding of a militiaman. A commando of the provincial police quickly responded and reinforced the troops holed up in the mountain. The running gunbattle lasted for three hours as the policemen chased the withdrawing rebels. (Manila MANILA BULLETIN 9 Nov p B-11)

Commander Hadjali Sali, one of the most feared liquidation squad leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front operating in Basilan, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, and Zamboanga City surrendered to police authorities. The surrenderee pledged to convince his 50 followers who are still in the hills to return to the fold of the law. (Manila MANILA BULLETIN 9 Nov p B-10)

10 November

Five NPA commanders, two rebel leaders' aides, and other heavily-armed regular NPA members surrendered yesterday to the Philippine army in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur. The surrenderees were identified as Abelardo Mansaluhon, alias Commander Bituan; Samuel Tacubao, alias Commander Abner, both of Agusan del Sur provincial party committee; Reynaldo Acebede, alias Commander Tornado and Alvin Mabandos, alias Commander Popoy or Jackson, both of Sandatahang Yunit Pampropaganda [Arms and Weapons Unit for Propaganda], District 1, Front 21. They yielded an assortment of weapons and ammunitions. The surrenderees were given instant cash equivalent to the guns they surrendered. (Manila MANILA BULLETIN 10 Nov pp 1, 8)

11 November

No fileworthy items monitored.

12 November

No fileworthy items monitored.

Thailand

Deputy Minister Outlines Policy for GATT

BK1711013693 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Nov 93 p 20

[Text] Thailand will ask for cuts in import taxes imposed on its agricultural products in exchange for the liberalisation of the country's financial market at the Uruguay Round talks due in mid-December, according to Deputy Finance Minister Trairong Suwannakhiri.

Many industrialised members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade would like to see a more liberalised financial market—insurance companies, financial institutions and commercial banks—in Thailand. In exchange for this, the Thai Government will ask for cuts in tax barriers on Thai agricultural goods Mr Trairong said.

Certain countries put up very high taxes for some agricultural products exported from Thailand. For example, the European Community imposes a 237% import tax on Thai bananas, he said.

At the most recent talks of the Uruguay Round, targeted cuts in taxes and duties were concluded. Taxes on agricultural products were reduced by 26% when compared with industrial goods, Mr Trairong said. The issues to be negotiated at this round were measures to demolish tax barriers and to call off financial compensation for the agricultural sector, he said.

To pave the way for a freer financial market in line with GATT demand, the Government asked the central bank and the Fiscal Policy Office to assess the effects, consequences, criteria and conditions of such a move, Mr Trairong said.

At the next GATT talks, scheduled for December 15, Thai delegates led by Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi will consist of officials from the Commerce and Finance Ministries and other senior officials.

Editorial Urges APEC To Absorb ASEAN

BK1711022993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Nov 93 p A6

[Editorial: "ASEAN Must Lose its Voice Through Apec"]

[Text] The 15-member grouping of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum which was formed in 1989 to enhance cooperation among countries in the region begins its first summit today in Seattle.

Apec groups the ASEAN six, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, and accounts for about 50 per cent of the world's production and 40 per cent of global trade.

Some ASEAN countries have cautioned Washington against turning Apec into a trading bloc with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed being so concerned, that he's boycotting the summit.

These ASEAN states maintain that since Apec's founding in 1989, the regional grouping's fundamental position had been that it should remain a loose consultative forum without power to make binding decisions on economic issues.

The United States however, since taking over the Apec chair from Thailand in September 1992, is bent on changing that. President Bill Clinton has let it be known that he wants the forum to be transformed from a "talking shop" into an achievement-based group and because of that proposed the Seattle summit.

The ASEAN states against Washington's plans to transform Apec maintain that Clinton wants to use the forum to project his image as the world's statesman. There has been criticism that supporting Apec gives the Clinton administration the opportunity to send U.S. goods rather than troops abroad, and this means creating jobs at home rather than spending money abroad.

There are also well-founded fears that Washington intends to bolster its position through Apec, in dealing with other economic groupings like the EC, as the GATT talks remain stalled over agricultural issues because of European intransigence.

East Asian nations are wary that if indeed Apec is used as a whip against the EC, it could provoke protectionist measures in Europe— which is ASEAN's second most important foreign market after the United States.

Though no major announcements are expected from this Apec summit, the ministerial meeting today which precedes 'the leaders' conference on Friday is expected to agree on among other things a new trade and investment framework for the region; set in motion a whole series of specific activities involving for example the development of a common recognition of professional qualifications, and the harmonization of customs procedures.

Though these things might not seem glamorous, they however are of significant importance in economic terms to the Apec members.

Instead of pushing for its own agenda, the United States should strive to create a momentum whereby the Apec member states could work together to create major new economic reforms which will be a stimulus to intra-regional trade and investment.

The United States has also supported the idea that it wants Apec to evolve eventually into a free trade area by 1996.

Extreme caution should be exercised by other Apec member states to prevent the grouping from becoming another closed economic bloc in the sense of having cosy preferential trading arrangements within itself, which does not extend to the rest of the world.

Rapid economic expansion in much of East Asia offers the United States the opportunity to bolster its exports. However Japan, China and many other countries in the region are running substantial trade surpluses with Washington. The Clinton administration wants to reduce these surpluses by a region-wide lowering of trade barriers.

For the Apec summit to be preoccupied with tariff-reduction strategies as dictated by the United States, would indeed be self-defeating as the grouping would inevitably be known as a trading bloc.

A positive point is that trade facilitation strategies as mentioned earlier will be discussed at the Seattle summit. Clearly, customs harmonization procedures, common standards and reduction of non-tariff barriers are much more important because it has been proven that if no initiatives are made in these areas, they can be a greater hindrance to trade than tariff-type concerns.

Faced with high employment, while most of Asia enjoys almost double digit economic growth, the United States, Canada and Australia want to speed up integration with the region's booming economies as a cure for their own stagnating performances.

If indeed Apec is transformed from a consultative body through the dictates of Washington, into a more formal group, ASEAN's voice as a collective group will be in danger of becoming muted. This must not be allowed to happen because it will leave ASEAN exposed to the demands of Apec's economic giants—namely the United States and Japan.

Editorial Views Position at APEC Summit

BK1511144393 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 15 Nov 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Thailand's Position at the APEC Meeting"]

[Text] The meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group, or APEC, will begin on 17 November in Seattle, hosted by President Bill Clinton. Since this is more or less a meeting of APEC leaders—with the possibility of America, Australia, and Japan trying to transform the grouping into a new economic forum—Thailand must do its best in drawing up its position.

We would like to ask the committee in charge of formulating Thailand's approach, led by Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Suphachai Phanitchaphak, not to adopt a policy similar to that adopted by Malaysia. Please bear in mind that this APEC meeting is very important for Thailand's future trade and investment. While trying to retain the importance of the ASEAN regional grouping, Dr. Suphachai's committee must also try to boost ASEAN's strength as a decisive factor in running the new grouping.

It is clear that President Clinton wants to open up a new offensive against the European Community at this meeting. The APEC grouping should, more or less, strike a balance with the European Community at the forthcoming Uruguay Round of GATT talks, scheduled to open in late December, so that a conclusion to this global conference can be achieved this year in accordance with the wishes of countries worldwide. Should the GATT conference fail, it is possible that the United States could assume the leadership of the APEC grouping in order to apply GATT regulations on global trade liberalization. This will more or less pressure other countries to adopt GATT regulations.

We disagree with the position drawn up by the committee—to have APEC serve as an organ to facilitate trade liberalization under the GATT agreements. We should accept full responsibility in joining America—the APEC leader—as well as Japan, Canada, and Australia and stand firm with them in all efforts. We know full well that a secretariat will be set up during the meeting; Thailand should not fear offending the European common market too much. Thailand stands to lose more if APEC is offended.

If there is a proposal for a meeting of APEC finance ministers, Thailand must not reject it. But we should tell them that Thailand cannot be bound by any resolutions or agreements until they are endorsed by the Thai Government. Meanwhile, we must stick with ASEAN in a show of force at the Seattle meeting. Although there may be differences of opinion among the ASEAN members, it does not matter. So long as Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand stick together, ASEAN's strength will prevail.

If our approach is well prepared, the prime minister will find it easier to make his points concerning the country's position—tactfully, both on the defensive and offensive, and on an equal footing with others at this time when Thailand is under pressure to open its service markets.

Writer Calls for ASEAN Unity at APEC Meeting

BK1611104593 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 16 Nov 93 p 2

[Saengchai Sunthonwat's column: "Clinton and APEC"]

[Text] My column yesterday reviewed Thailand's membership in the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations and the establishment of APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] group. Today, I will analyze the objectives of the APEC meeting to be held in the United States.

The upcoming APEC meeting is indeed a political game purely invented by President Bill Clinton to serve his own internal political interests. Due to the Republican victories in the recent election in three U.S. states, it is necessary for Clinton to do something to overcome his political setback, and he will use the APEC meeting in Seattle to display and spell out the major policy of the United States toward this region. He intends to exploit the publicity of the meeting inside the United States and worldwide to show his world-level leadership.

I wonder if the APEC meeting will only discuss trade and economic issues in line with the principle objectives of the organization or if the agenda will include the question of regional security.

That is the first question I have in my mind. The second, more important, question is what kind of reaction and feelings Clinton will get when he declares the U.S. policy and interests in the Asia Pacific region during the meeting. Will he make the APEC member countries feel more secure, or will he create conflict and uneasiness between the regional groups including ASEAN?

The United States, China, and Japan are the three giants that will participate in the APEC meeting. Clinton intends to use the forum to show to the world people and the Americans his ability in controlling economic and politica games being played with the other two giants. The world will see how the three giants will decide about this region.

Up to this point, the meeting, in principle, should deal strictly with trade and economic issues. But the issue of regional security will be dragged in. I fear that the three giants will themselves map out the policies while overlooking small nations or groups such as our ASEAN.

In short, we fear that the United States might try to build up APEC the way it wants and gradually smear ASEAN's significance.

Will the United States use APEC as a forum to dictate political, economic, and security games in Asia and Pacific to the point that ASEAN is no longer necessary for the region?

I consider ASEAN a highly successful grouping of the countries in this region. During the meeting, I recommend that Thailand stick together with other ASEAN member countries. Our association is now strong and has attained worldwide recognition. We are one of the world's powerful organizations.

The fear I have in my mind is that Clinton will use the APEC meeting as his base to remold the new Pacific society.

The United States is the world's economic and military power. We certainly want the United States to play a role in maintaining security in the region and to counterbalance Red China's influence. We also want the big U.S. market for our products. The United States is very important to us.

As a small country, Thailand must stick together with other ASEAN member countries as I said in my columns during the past two days. We must remember that unity of ASEAN member countries will increase our bargaining power. The Malaysian prime minister is probably afraid of this assumption so he does not attend the APEC meeting.

We will have to wait and see what the result of the meeting will be.

Daily Interviews Workers Returning From Libya

BK1711021593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Nov 93 p A3

[Text] Libya is already getting rid of Thai workers by halting renewal of their visas, forcing them to return home as soon as their contracts expire, according to workers who returned recently.

On Monday evening, a group of 30 Thai workers whose contracts had expired arrived at the Don Muang International Airport on an Alitalia flight from Italy. An earlier group of about 200 workers came back last week. The workers who arrived on Monday travelled from a Libyan town near the Egyptian border before boarding a ferry to Malta and catching a flight there to Rome. From Rome, they flew to Bangkok.

Amphon Pana, 32, from Nongkhai's Sriyai district, one of the returnees, told THE NATION on his arrival that he worked for an Italian contractor putting up an oil refinery some 100 km from Tripoli.

He said he had to return home because his contract with the company expired and the Libyan authorities refused to renew his visa. The worker said the main reason why his visa was not extended was Libya's conflict with the Thai government.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi last week called on private firms to lay off Thai workers accusing Thailand of siding with the United States which accused Tripoli of secretly building chemical weapons plants.

One of the returnees, who asked not to be named, claimed he heard about Libya's chemical weapons project from his friends who somehow might have been involved. He, however, did not provide further information apart from saying he believed the U.S. allegations.

Amphon said that previously Thai workers could easily renew their contracts with the companies after a year, but now they cannot. Amphon said he had first wished to work in Libya for three or four years but now he could not because Tripoli refused to extend his visa.

Phisit Kritsa, 33, a foreman at the same oil refinery factory said he had to return to Thailand for the same reason.

"I have seen Col Qadhdhafi announcing on television that he would deport more than 10,000 Thai workers from Libya because the Thai government has cooperated with the United States," he said. He was paid a monthly salary of about US$1,000. He said he had no apprehensions over coming back to Thailand because he has already planned to work with an industrial estate here.

Phisit claimed that Thai workers of each company will be gradually deported from Libya. He added that the Thai government would not be able to solve the problem within in a short period of time. "For the moment, the government should stay calm before attempting to find the ways out of the difficulty," he said.

Wanchai Nachon, 33, a worker in the same Italian company, told THE NATION he had to come back because his contract expired and the Libyan government refused to renew his visa.

"At the factory, I did not hear much on the matter. As a matter of fact, I wanted the Libyan government to give the green light for the renewal of visas for Thai workers. I'd love to work there if there is no any sanction nor any blockade" he said.

Wanchai said most foreign workers in Libya came from Thailand, Philippines and the Sudan. He said each unskilled worker generally received equal pay of about US$400.

"For myself, I did not see any problem of coming back to work in Thailand. I will work in the paddy field as usual" he said.

Prasoet Phanyamat, 40, another returnee, said he received a monthly salary of about Bt10,000. He said things in Libya did not seem to as good as in Thailand or in Saudi Arabia with food in short supply. He did not think of renewing his contract. The job placement agency which sent him to Libya was called "Sai Mate", now renamed "Siribut", he said.

Noppadon Nanemethi, 30, a worker who decided to return home without completing his contract, told reporters he wanted to come back after he heard Col Qadhdhafi's announcement he would deport Thai workers.

Chief Views Talks With Saudi Counterpart

BK1211013193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Nov 93 p A4

[Text] Intelligence chiefs of Thailand and Saudi Arabia have agreed that the two nations should increase cooperation and that the on-going dispute over police inquiries into crimes against Saudi citizens should not interfere with the development of bilateral relations.

Gen Charan Kunlawanit, Secretary-General of the National Security Council said agreement had been reached during talks with his Saudi counterpart, Prince al-Turki Bin Faisal, in Riyadh.

"Thailand and Saudi should cooperate more in various fields. And in the intelligence field, Prince al-Turki and I agree that the two countries will cooperate more in the exchange of information on drug suppression and criminals," Charan said at Don Muang Airport yesterday on his arrival back from Saudi Arabia. He said his trip, at the invitation of Prince al-Turki, had set the ground for improved ties.

"With the trip to Riyadh, bureaucrats of both countries had the chance to talk about various aspects of relations," he said. Saudi, like Thailand, was a transit point for illegal drugs.

Charan was accompanied by officials from the ministries of foreign affairs, labour and social welfare, the intelligence agency and the National Security Council. He said he had assured the prince of Thailand's continuing efforts to get to the bottom of the theft and subsequent alleged embezzlement by Thai police of Saudi gems in 1990.

Saudi authorities claim that part of the stolen jewellery was missing when it was returned to Riyadh after being recovered by Thai police and that some of it was fake. Saudi dissatisfaction with the progress of Thai inquiries into the missing gems, and with investigations of other crimes, have strained relations. Riyadh ceased issuing work visas to Thai citizens.

Charan said as a result the number of Thai workers there had fallen from about 100,000 to only 20,000. However, the general played down the visa suspensions saying Saudi authorities were considering applications individually and were not rejecting every applicant.

Japan To Buy 80,000 Tons More of Thai Rice

BK1311094493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan says Japan will import another 80,000 tons of Thai rice, including 70,000 tons of white rice and 10,000 tons of glutinous rice. The amount is part of Japan's rice imports during November 1993 to March 1994 specified at 900,000 tons. The deputy prime minister says Japan is expected to purchase up to 300,000 tons of Thai rice. However, he says negotiations are being made on the price. He says Japan will buy more Thai rice because rice production in other countries such as the United States and rice from countries such as Vietnam is of low quality. Japan earlier signed a contract to buy 183,000 tons of Thai rice.

Labor Official Receives Lao Labor Minister

BK1611140493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Lao People's Democratic Republic Labor Minister Thongloun Sisoulit had a meeting this afternoon with Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Labor Ministry Chamlong Siprasat. The Lao minister said he was impressed by Thailand's progress in labor and social welfare administration. Laos would like to learn from Thailand in order to improve its labor administration. He said that the Labor Ministry of Laos is planning to amend the labor law to make it suitable with the economic conditions of the present day. An example would be the promotion of labor relations. Another change under the plan is the amendment of rules and regulations regarding social security, which would make a distinction between regulations covering government officials and those of employees. Particularly, there will be regulations on job recruitment to allow job placement companies to work in Laos. All these changes are aimed at adjusting Laos to the new economic condition, that of a free economy, which will replace the controlled economy of the past.

Last Army Engineers Return From Cambodia

BK1211021193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Nov 93 p 8

[Text] Aranyaprathet—The last group of Thai Army engineers left Cambodia yesterday after completing a

20-month mission that was part of Thailand's contribution to the reconstruction of the country. The 150 members of the Thai engineering battalion were involved in restoring the western end of the Highway 5 from the border to Sisophon, some 48 kilometres to the east. They formed part of a 450-strong army engineering battalion that went into Cambodia on February 3, 1992 under a bilateral arrangement.

A second army engineering corps was later sent to Cambodia and served directly under the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) which began pulling out its 22,000 strong peacekeeping force in September, in a process due to be largely completed by November 15.

Reporting on the work of the group that crossed the border back to Thailand yesterday, First Engineering Special Task Force Commander Lt Col [Lieutenant Colonel] Wirasak Raksasap said they had built the Klong Leuk border bridge at Poipet, removed or defused some 3,000 land-mines and constructed a primary school.

Article Views Commission Meeting With India

BK1311013893 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Nov 93 p 4

[By Woranan Krongbunying]

[Text] Talks in New Delhi last week, occasioned by the second meeting of the Thai-Indian Joint Commission emerged in the eyes of many officials as a coming together of "long lost friends".

The November 4-5 discussions in the Indian capital, spearheaded by respective foreign ministers, were presented as principally a bid to enhance economic co-operation, as each country has the capacity to help open up markets and investment opportunities in neighbouring regions; namely Southeast Asia, and South Asia. But the talks also provided an opportunity for the two sides to take stock of political interests.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri told the BANGKOK POST that he considers India as a country that can serve as a "balance" in a new Asian order featuring China and Japan and predominant powers.

"I have viewed India this way long before I assumed the position of Foreign Minister. It is actually the second largest Asian country, with a great potential," he added.

An intelligence source noted that Thailand's wish to develop good relations with India comes at a time when China is trying to firm up links with some Indochinese states. China is reported to have been given permission by the Burmese Government to use naval facilities on the Andaman Sea.

India for its part has expressed strong interest in strengthening relations with member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) since the collapse of the Soviet Union, its ally during the Cold War.

A diplomatic source recently indicated New Delhi's interest in the ASEAN Regional Security Forum (ARF), which is to have its first formal meeting in Bangkok after the 27th ASEAN foreign ministers meeting.

The 26th ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting in Singapore in July announced plans for the ARF, which officials stress will be a forum for exchange of views on security issues for ASEAN states, their western and westernised dialogue partners, as well as China and Russia. But, according to another diplomatic source, India did not raise this matter during talks last week.

There was however some exchange of thoughts on reform of the United Nations Security Council [UNSC], in which India has been reported to be seeking a place among the permanent members. Thailand agrees on the idea of reform but made no commitment as to whether permanent membership of the UNSC should be expanded to include Japan or India, as a new Asian representative. The five permanent members of the UNSC are China, Russia, Britain, France and the United States.

On economic issues, Foreign Minister Prasong reaffirmed with his Indian counterpart Dinesh Singh that, in his capacity as the current chairman of ASEAN, he would support closer co-operation between India and the six-nation grouping.

At the recent Singapore meeting, India became a full-fledged sectoral partner of ASEAN committed to co-operate in trade, investment, science and technology, and tourism. The first meeting under this sectoral partnership will take place in Jakarta in January 1994.

Bilaterally, Thailand and India agreed to set up a sub-committee on fisheries in what was seen as a compromise formula. Thailand had proposed that the two countries sign a Memorandum of Understanding. But, as one well-placed source put it, "India did not want to commit itself, saying that it was not yet ready."

India wants to see the outcome of the Thai-Burmese arrangement on fisheries before making any such move, the source added. India is rich in marine resources but lacks technology for deepsea fishing. Thailand has the desired technology and is keen to invest. The two countries concurred on the principle of co-operation in aviation. But they went no further than agreeing that officials of national carriers should meet for talks.

On the private sector level, the Thai Board of Trade (BOT) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)—which met in parallel with the government-to-government Joint Commission—

agreed to come together again in Bangkok next year, either in January or June, an official said.

The FICCI would prefer the seminar to be held in January as it is sending a delegation to Taiwan at that time. But the BOT prefers June as it might be involved in meetings in January involving ASEAN's private sector.

General Comments on Border Meeting With Burma

BK1211015393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Nov 93 p 8

[Text] First Army commander Lt-Gen [Lieutenant General] Chettha Thanacharo yesterday hailed the success of the just-concluded 8th border meeting between Thailand and Burma which confirmed Thailand's position of non-interference in internal conflicts involving Rangoon and minority groups.

"We made clear our sincerity toward Burma by stressing the Government's non-interference policy," said the army commander on his return from Burma yesterday.

Lt-Gen Chettha, who headed the Thai delegation in the talks, said he was confident Burma was happy with Thailand's position and the army would try hard to put the agreements reached at the meeting into effect. He said the army on several occasions had seized large caches of war weapons along the border.

"Undoubtedly, these weapons would have been sent to minority groups fighting the Burmese government if they were not seized by our forces. We have to try much harder to show our sincerity toward Rangoon."

The commander said the Government had made its policy clear and Army Commander-in-Chief Gen [General] Wimon Wongwanit had repeatedly told his subordinates about Thailand's neutrality on conflicts between Rangoon and the minority groups.

Lt-Gen Chettha said he doubted the country would benefit by any policy hostile to countries which share borders.

"Nobody will benefit from such a policy," he said.

The general said he was surprised by the warm welcome given him by senior Burmese military officers and leading members of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Lt-Gen Chettha said the Thai delegation was also surprised to learn about the early release of 17 Thais serving 10-year jail terms at Mergui.

"We only asked whether the 17 Thais could be moved to Rangoon so their relatives in Thailand could visit them. They have been detained for 105 days. We were totally surprised when told all of them would be freed unconditionally." He said the gesture was a clear indication of good relations.

"We were very delighted to hear this," he said. The 17 Thais were arrested for illegal logging in Burma.

Accompanying the commander at the meeting were the deputy commanders of the first, third and fourth armies, the governor of Phet Buri and the deputy governors of Kanchanaburi and Rat Buri.

Lt-Gen Chettha said an agreement was also reached on joint cooperation in suppressing the narcotics trade.

"In the near future we will exchange information which will enable us to solve the problem more effectively." He said Burma promised to set up reception centres to accommodate illegal immigrants repatriated from Thailand.

Rangoon also asked Thailand to help keep a watch on 13 Burmese nationals who might use Thailand to reach third countries where they can conduct political activities against Rangoon.

Paper Decries Plan To Dam Salween River

BK1511035593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Nov 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Burma Dams Are Clearly a Crime Against Humanity"]

[Text] The Karen are Thailand's ecological conscience.

And if Thailand's ambitious plans to build dams on border rivers are seen through, the Karen could soon weigh heavily on Thailand's humanitarian conscience.

Living among the river valleys on the border between Thailand and Burma, they—like the Penans in Malaysia—depend on having a healthy forest to maintain their way of life. They have suffered heavily from the intensive logging carried out by Thai firms in Burmese forests.

Unlike the Penan, of course, the Karen having been fighting a war of self-determination against Burma's military regime for the last 40 years. This has placed them in a vulnerable position vis-a-vis Thailand, a fact which the government has exploited to demand timber concessions.

In need of arms and Thailand's favour, the Karen have been forced to accept the logging. But now Thailand wants to construct dams on their territory.

Out of its entire winding course from the Tibetan Plateau down to the Gulf of Martaban, the Salween River only touches the Thai border for roughly 100 kilometres. Less than six per cent of the river's catchment area lies within Thailand. Yet the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) is planning to build two major dams on this major river.

The biggest, the Upper Salween Dam, will be located 76 kms upstream from the confluence of the Moei and

Salween Rivers. The 166-metre high dam would probably flood more than 1,000 square kms of land, almost entirely in Karenni and Shan States in Burma.

But the electricity and the water would go to Thailand.

The dam would have an installed electricity generating capacity of 4,540 megawatts, nearly five times more than Thailand's largest dam making it possibly the biggest dam in Southeast Asia (Malaysia is planning a 16,000-MW dam in Sarawak State).

Thailand and Burma are planning seven other joint dam projects, including the Lower Salween Dam, three on the Moei River which divides Thailand from Burma further south, and one dam apiece on the Mae Sai, Mae Nam Kok and Klong Kra Buri. Plans have been drawn up to pump water from the proposed Moei and Salween reservoirs over the mountains and into the severely depleted Phumiphon Reservoir.

Feasibility studies for seven of these projects have already been carried out at the request of the Thai and Burmese governments by the secretive, Japan-based Electric Power Development Corp, a "special corporation" largely funded by the Japanese government and closely connected to Japan's overseas development aid institutions.

The Upper and Lower Salween Dams are expected to cost around Bt100 million. With the World Bank turning away from other large-scale hydro projects such as the Narmada in India, it's not at all clear where the money will come from.

More to the point, it's not at all clear where the Karen living along the Salween and Moei River valleys are going to go. The dams will destroy not only their homes but their way of life, turning them into refugees.

The Karen will be forced into making a terrible choice, between living in Slorc [State Law and Order Restoration Council] concentration camps or Thai refugee camps. Under outside pressure, the Thai government has quietly tolerated the presence of Karen refugees, but always with reluctance and irritation.

If a military force were to move in and kick the Karen off their land at gunpoint, it would be condemned as naked aggression. So why should flooding them off their land be judged any differently? Thailand seems to be embarking on dam warfare, a serious matter since the people to be displaced are well-armed.

The Karen are also well aware that electricity for Thailand means power for Slorc, the military junta now ruling Burma. "Thailand will get the energy, Slorc will get the money, and we will be left to deal with the impacts of the dam," one Karen leader has noted.

Nor is the international community likely to accept this matter lying down. The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee has recently recommended by unanimous vote that the Clinton administration take a much closer look at the human rights situation in Burma. According to the London-based human rights organization Amnesty International, a climate fear is still prevalent in the country, despite cosmetic changes by the ruling military junta.

While damming the border rivers may at first glance seem to be an easy way to generate cheap electricity and—by filling up the Phumiphon Reservoir—to show that dams can work as a replacement for watershed forests, the hidden costs of these schemes are overwhelmingly large.

Dams have long been decried as a crime against nature. These projects on the border rivers, however, are also a crime against the Karen. And since they are to be imposed on a minority people for the benefit of a foreign power, they are nothing less than a crime against humanity.

Vietnam

Foreign Minister Briefs Press on PRC Visit

BK1611130093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 16 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Can held a news conference in Hanoi on 16 November to brief newsmen on the results of SRV President Le Duc Anh's official friendship visit to the People's Republic of China.

Attending the function were representives of newspapers and news agencies at home and abroad and officials of foreign embassies.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam briefed them on the main points of President Le Duc Anh's meetings with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng, and National People's Congress Chairman Qian Shi, as well as with other Chinese leaders.

The minister stressed that President Le Duc Anh's China visit was full of splendid success, thereby helping to strengthen mutual understanding and enhance friendly relations between the two nations. Through this visit, Vietnam and China have set orientations for accelerating bilateral economic and trade relations, consolidating friendship, and expanding cooperation in various domains.

At the news conference, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam answered many questions from foreign newsmen related to President Le Duc Anh's China visit.

Commentary Views Le Duc Anh Visit

BK1611131893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] President Le Duc Anh on Monday concluded his visit to China. Both Vietnam and China have acknowledged the success of the visit. Here is our radio editor's opinion:

The official friendly visit to China of President Le Duc Anh, the first visit of a Vietnamese president to China since 1959, is an important event in the relation between the two countries. Both Vietnam and China highly valued this visit.

During his stay in China, the Vietnamese president was warmly welcomed by Chinese senior party and state leaders and people of all localities. The two sides spent much time on comparing notes on bilateral relations and highly valued regular meetings between leaders of the two countries.

China and Vietnam affirmed that these meetings have a very important significance in strengthening mutual understanding and trust. This is a new development in cooperative relations between Vietnam and China. But the leaders also acknowledged that some agreements have been carried out very slowly with economic and trade relations not worthy of the potentials and aspiration of the two countries.

Two weeks ago, Vietnam and China signed an agreement on fundamental principles for solving territorial border issues. This was an important opening step to promote the negotiation process in order to soon reach a fundamental agreement on issues relating to territorial border on the land and in the sea. If the agreement is realized and efforts taken to restrain from complicated issues affecting the relations between the two countries, relations between Vietnam and China will consolidate and develop.

The visit to China by the Vietnamese president has already helped to consolidate the friendly relation between the two countries. President Le Duc Anh also said this visit will lead to a stage of steady development with substantial and profound significance.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, in an interview with the Vietnamese army newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN also said he was very optimistic about the prospect of the Vietnam-China relations. In his opinion, the visit to China by President Le Duc Anh was a great success.

U.S.$500 Million Contract Signed With Russia

BK1711063193 Hanoi VNA in English 0621 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 17—Vietnam and Russia have signed an export, import contract worth U.S.$500 million, the largest since the disapearance of the former Soviet Union. The contract provides that from now to the end of 1994 the Vietnam General Corporation of Agricultural Materials (VIGECAM) will supply the Russian corporation Inforcentor with 260,000 tonnes of rice, 10,000 tonnes of coffee, and thousands of tonnes of vegetables and meat. These exports will then be delivered to other former Soviet states in an internationally funded programme. In return VIGECAM will import [as received] 500,000 tonnes of fertilizer and 200,000 tonnes of steel.

AFP on Agreement

BK1411064893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0500 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi, Nov 14 (AFP)—A trade agreement worth 500 million U.S. dollars was signed between Vietnam and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), a union newspaper reported here Sunday.

The agreement between Vietnam and the former republics of the Soviet Union is the largest since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990, according to Federation of Unions' newspaper Lao Dong. Under the contract, Vietnam will export from now until the end of next year 260,000 tonnes of rice, 10,000 tonnes of coffee and several thousand tonnes of vegetables, fruit and meat. In exchange, Vietnam will receive from the CIS 600,000 tonnes of fertilizer, 200,000 tonnes of construction steel, according to the newspaper, which did not provide any further details.

This trade will be financed in part by an aid program from international financial organizations to the CIS, Lao Dong added. The contract was signed between Russian group Infocentor and Vigecam, a vietnamese agricultural company.

International Defoliants Conference Announced

BK1211132293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Vietnam will host an international conference next week on the long-term effects of defoliants used by the United States in the Vietnam War including the agent orange. The meeting will take place in Hanoi from 15-18 November, and will be attended by experts from various countries including France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, and the United States.

Conference Opens 15 Nov

BK1611105293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] The National Committee for Investigation Into Consequences of Defoliant Effect in Vietnam; the Ministry of Public Health; and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment jointly organized the second international conference on the effect of defoliant on men and nature on a long-term basis. The conference was held in Hanoi on 15 November.

Attending the seminar were almost 200 Vietnamese and foreign scientists; 50 of them came from the United States, Russia, Japan, France, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Germany, the U.S. war veteran association, foreign embassies, and international organizations based in Vietnam.

The conference, which will end on 18 November, will hear and discuss 50 scientific reports and 20 investigation pieces presented by scientists at home and abroad on issues related to the effect of defoliant on men, land, and vegetation; its long-term effect on the environment; and measures to minimize its effect and enhance human's physical fitness and so forth.

European Parliament Calls For Better Ties

BK1311154293 Hanoi VNA in English 1438 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] The European Parliament has recently approved a resolution, calling for further promotion of investment, trade, and aid to Vietnam. It was the third time in three years that the European Parliament passed such a resolution.

The resolution praised the achievements recorded in Vietnam's renovation process and welcomed the agreement on textiles signed in December 1992 between the European Community and Vietnam. It also called on the EC to hold talks and sign as soon as possible the framework agreement on trade and cooperation with Vietnam, and open a representative office in Hanoi. The resolution urged the international financial and monetary institutions to implement as soon as possible major development projects, and called for the lifting of the 30-year embargo imposed by the United States against Vietnam.

Also on this occasion, an EC delegation will be sent to Vietnam early next year to discuss how to promote future relations between the two sides.

Returnees in North Benefiting From EC Aid

BK1411065293 Hanoi VNA in English 0604 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 14—About 23,600 returnees from refugee camps abroad living in northern Vietnam have benefited from the European Community International Programme for the reintegration of Vietnamese returnees (ECIP). The biggest beneficiaries have been those living in the Haiphong port city, about 15,500.

ECIP has so far granted 8,261 loans worth USD 9,888,000, of which 40 per cent were small loans, (less than USD 300 each). Nineteen minor projects with financial support from ECIP have been completed, while 40 others approved with total funding of USD 2.3 million are underway. It is expected that the ECIP will have granted by the year-end funds for 10 more projects. However, the programme plans to increase aid to minor projects, activities of health centres and water supply systems in north Vietnam.

Through the estimated fund of USD 1.16 million spent on 34 vocational training centres in northern provinces with big populations of returnees, 15,000 students have graduated with a returnee participation of 40 per cent.

EC, Red Cross Provide Relief Aid

BK1311142293 Hanoi VNA in English 1404 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 13—The European Community (EC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have through the Vietnam Red Cross granted more relief aid to the Vietnamese people.

EC aid this time is composed of 1,500 tonnes of rice designated for ethnic minority people in mountain provinces and for the population of the central coastal provinces of Quang Tri, Thua Thien-Hue and Quang Binh which were severally affected by natural disasters some months ago.

This is the second consignment of aid the EC granted through the VNRC, the first in November 1992 included 1,786 tonnes of rice.

On this occasion, the IFRC donated 120,000 us dollars as relief aid to some disaster-stricken provinces in central Vietnam.

The Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) has made known its decision to provide natural disaster victims also in central provinces with a quantity of medicine worth about 70,000 US dollars.

Foreign Ministry Discusses Dissident Trial

BK1611145793 Hanoi VNA in English 1442 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 16—Answering questions by foreign correspondents on the trial of a group of men on the count of causing public disorder in Hue on May 24, 1993, the spokesperson for the Vietnamese Ministry for Foreign Affairs today affirmed:

'First of all, it must be made clear that the first instance trial held on November 15 by the People's Court of the Central Province of Thua Thien-Hue to try citizens on charge of causing public disorder in Hue on May 24, 1993, but not Buddhist followers. The severe punishment of fomentors is a normal matter happening in all countries. The court was held publicly and conformed to the procedures on criminal litigation of Vietnam. It's completely groundless to say that the court is unequal'.

Party Adviser Attends Catholic Congress

BK1511064393 Hanoi VNA in English 0617 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.15—Catholics in Ho Chi Minh City have held a congress to review the activities of the city's Committee for Solidarity of the Catholics in national construction and defence over the last five years. Prominent among the guests to the congress were Mr.Nguyen Van Linh, adviser of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and several senior officials of the city.

The congress attended by a great number of the clergy in the city reviewed what had been done by the Catholics in the city since the last congress held in 1988, and outlined tasks for the next five years aimed at making contributions to the country's renovation.

The congress elected a new 68-member leading body of the Committee for Solidarity of Catholics with Priest Vuong Dinh Bich as its head.

Do Muoi Meets Leading Youth Union Cadres

BK1711122393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] A cordial meeting between Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and leading cadres of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee and of the Hanoi Municipal Students' Association was orgnized at the Hanoi Capital Youth Union Heaquarters on the afternoon of 16 November.

The comrade general secretary spent a great deal of time discussing and contributing his valuable views to youths in the capital in general and to students in particular.

Also present were leading comrades of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee and People's Committe and repesentatives of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee.

Do Muoi Attends National Assembly Meeting

BK1711121793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi National Assembly deputies met to prepare for the upcoming session of the National Assembly on the morning of 16 November. Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, National Assembly deputy of the election unit no. 1 of Ba Dinh Precinct, attended the meeting. Comrade Dinh Hanh, vice chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee, reported to the deputies on positive results of Hanoi's socioeconomic development in the first three quarters of 1993. The deputies discussed the planning, method, and content of local voters' contacts to be held in mid-November so the voters can contribute their opinions to the draft laws, which are going to be discussed at the next National Assembly sitting.

Vo Van Kiet Makes Appeal on Immunization Day

BK1611115793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Dear friends: As previously announced, a ceremony to launch the nationwide campaign against polio and infant tetanus was held yesterday in Hanoi. Today, 13 November, the campaign was launched simultaneously in all localities. On this occasion, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet issued an appeal, as follows:

Immunization for children is an important task among the acticvites to care for the well-being of our people. According to reports from the Ministry of Public Health, after the five year plan 1985-89 to expand immunization activity nationwide, and the four year plan 1989-92 to maintain immunization rate at above 80 percent, the infected and fatal rates of dangerous and contagious diseases which were popular among children such as polio, tetanus, diphteria, whooping cough, tuberculosis, and measles have significantly decreased.

In 1991 and 1992, to support the resolution of the World Health Organization [WHO], West Pacific region, which called for elimination of polio and infant tetanus by the year 1995, we have started programs to eliminate polio and infant tetanus in many localities. This year, with significant assistance from the international organizations, the programs were expanded to the nationwide level, starting with a national campaign for immunization in this November and December. On behalf of the government, I heartily compliment the administrations at all levels and people in all areas, cabinet ministries and mass organizations, especially the public health sector, the Vietnam Women's Union, and the Red Cross Society for their great efforts in the realization of this significant and important program.

I would like to thank the international organizations and governments, especially UNICEF and WHO, for their effective assistance for this expanded immunization program. This campaign is not only expanded in terms of scale but also has special importance in ensuring healthy development of the young generation in the future who will take the responsibility of building up our country to make it ever more wealthy and beautiful, making our people ever more happy. Therefore, the elimination of polio and infant tetanus and blindness should be carried out thouroughly and with the highest efficiency.

I heartily request all country fellow citizens, especially the mothers living in mountain, highland, and remote regions, to actively support the campaign by ensuring that your children be immunized. This will not only be an expression of love to your children, but also a responsibility of every family to its children. We should not let our children suffer permanent disability just because of our negligence.

Administrations at all levels should heighten their sense of responsibility in caring for the people's health and actively direct this immunization campaign. The public health sector should take main responsibility in providing medical and technical services so that the campaign would be successful in both terms of quality and efficiency.

I would like to suggest that the Women's Union, Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Federation, Red Cross Society, Peasants Association, Confederation of Vietnamese

Workers, and other mass organizations actively participate in motivating all mothers to take preventive immunization against infant tetanus and all children to take vaccines. I also suggest that the public mass media will launch in-depth programs to help people understand and actively participate in this campaign.

I suggest to domestic as well as international organizations, especially the UNICEF and WHO, continue your efficient support to our annual national expanded immunization campaigns for the sake of the health of Vietnamese children and the happiness of Vietnamese people.

Doan Khue Sends Anniversary Congratulations

BK1511131193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Letter from Minister of National Defense Doan Khue to cadres, soldiers, and staff of Division 306 of Huong Giang Armed Corps on its 15th founding anniversary, 15 November—announcer read]

[Text] Dear Comrades: I would like to send my warmest regards and best wishes on the 15th glorious founding anniversary of Division 306 of the Huong Giang Armed Corps—15 November 1978-15 November 1993, on behalf of the Central Military Party Committee, and on behalf of the Ministry of National Defense, to all cadres, soldiers, staff, injured and sick soldiers, fallen combatant families, and retired and transferred personnel of the regiment.

The division was born in the Binh Tri Thien Land of loyalty, bravery, and steadfastness. It belongs to the National Defense Ministry's regional main force. Generations of cadres and soldiers of the division have continuously developed their revolutionary nature; the glorious tradition of the Vietnam People's Army; and the tradition of swiftness, fearlessness, and determination-to-win of the heroic Huong Giang Armed Corps in the 15 years of building, fighting, and growing up under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Central Military Party Committee, and Ministry of National Defense and with the loving and helping of local people, generations of cadres and soldiers of the division. They have built their own reputation of positiveness, creativeness, and overcoming all difficulties to accomplish duties and record outstanding achievements to contribute to the undertaking of building and protecting the Vietnamese socialist fatherland and to fulfill noble international duties. The division has been honorably conferred many noble awards by the party, government, and army. On this occasion, I wholeheartedly hail the division's achievements in the last 15 years.

I wish you good health and progressing. I send you my friendly and determined-to-win salutations.

Doan Khue Attends Medical Service Meeting

BK1611130593 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1315 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] The Huong Giang Military Corps held a conference to review its military and civil medical service and the two-year implementation of the Program No. 12 on national medical service. General Doan Khue, member of the party Political Bureau and minister of national defense and representatives from the Ministry of Public Health attended the conference.

In the past years, the corps medical service has coordinated with the Ha Bac medical service and the steering committee of the Program No. 12 to consolidate the medical service in 21 villages by supplying antimalaria medication for more than 6,000 people, providing vaccinations for 3,000 people, giving medical treatment to 21,000 people, and admitting 12,500 in-patents. The corps also helped to train 100 local medical staff.

Gen. Doan Khue commended the military hospitals No. 43, No. 673, No. 164, B25, and B04 for their satisfactory implementation of Program No. 12. He also reminded them to quickly draw more experience to perform better in the following years.

Nguyen Duc Binh Attends Institute Anniversary

BK1611125793 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1215 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] On 15 November, the Vietnam Institute of the Aged held a ceremony to mark its 10th founding anniversary. Attending the function were comrade Nguyen Duc Binh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau; Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the party Central Committee; other party and state leaders; representatives of the Ministry of Public Health; and a number of foreign guests.

Professor Pham Khue, director of the institue delivered a report stressing work and achievements of the institute during the past 10 years that have contributed to strengthening the task of caring for and improving the spiritual life or the ageds. This is one of the important social policies of our party and state. Achievements in scientific research on providing care for the ageds conducted by the institute have greatly contributed to effectively implementing this policy.

On this occasion, Professor Pham Khue proposed that the institute be changed to the Vietnam Institute of Gerontology to suit its activities.

Addressing the function, Comrade Nguyen Duc Binh highly commended the institute for its achievements scored during the past 10 years, saying this will serve as a basis for further development of the institute. He asserted that scientific research completed by the institute are the intellectual assets for the task of caring for the aged.

Vu Oanh Attends Ethnic Art Seminar in Hanoi

BK1711121993 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1215 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] On 16 November, the Theatrical Research Institution, the Ethnic Culture Commission, and the Ethnic Culture Association held a seminar on the preservation and development of ethnic arts performance in Hanoi. Attending the seminar were Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the party Political Bureau; Tran Hoan, minister of culture and information; and researchers; play writers; and writers.

The seminar listened to many reports on the cultural and arts situation, especially on the preservation and development of ethnic arts performance. The seminar agreed to set up a steering committee to provide guidance on the preservation and development of ethnic arts under the socialist direction, plan for the development of folklore art performance of 53 ethnics in the entire country to preserve their traditional art heritage, conduct research and present academic studies on ethnic art performance, and train more ethnic art performers.

Joint Stock Airline Accused of Mismanagement

BK1411055093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0129 GMT 14 Nov 93

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Hanoi, Nov 14 (AFP)—Vietnam's first joint-stock airline, Pacific Airlines, is being brought down to earth amid accusations of financial mismanagement and the illegal sale of landing rights.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has endorsed a proposal to bring the three-year-old airline under direct state control, the semi-official Vietnam Investment Review (VIR) weekly said. But he has recommended the airline be allowed to continue its operations, which include regular passenger flights from Ho Chi Minh City to Bangkok, Paris and Taipei.

Vietnam has only one other airline, national carrier Vietnam Airlines.

While Pacific Airlines is a joint-stock company, all the shares are held by state-owned enterprises. But it has been grossly undercapitalized from take-off.

Civil Aviation Department (CAD) head Nguyen Hong Nhi said the airline opened with charter capital of only 200,000 dollars, and recent inspections showed that the shareholders had failed to contribute even that amount, VIR said. Instead, Pacific Airlines tried to raise working capital by illegally selling commerical landing rights to Air Outre-Mer (AOM) of France, Golden Glass International of Hong Kong and World Airlines Ltd. of Gambia, Nhi said.

World Airlines president Alain Saint-Prix told AFP he is suing Pacific Airlines and the Vietnamese government in a Geneva court for 13.3 million dollars for alleged non-payment of a 730,000-dollar debt, delinquency charges and damages.

Saint-Prix charged that Pacific Airlines had failed to pay World Airways for the rental of a Boeing 707 used for cargo flights in November and December 1991, then unilaterally cancelled their contract three months later.

"I am losing my business," lamented Saint-Prix, who said Vietnamese authorities had confiscated his French passport after the dispute with Pacific, effectively barring him from leaving Vietnam for the past two years.

Pacific Airlines director Le Van Chung declined to respond to verbal and written questions submitted by AFP concerning the charges against his company.

Though Kiet said poor guidance from the CAD was partly to blame for Pacific's plight, he endorsed Nhi's proposal of having the CAD take over the state's share of the company. He instructed the Finance Ministry and other concerned ministries to settle the airline's financial problems and "turn the company into a profitable venture," VIR said.

Kiet endorsed Nhi's proposal to keep Pacific as a joint-stock company, setting legal capital at five million dollars. Private investors with capital certified by the state bank will be allowed to buy shares, Kiet said, but without specifying what percentage would be reserved for the state.

Peasants Congress Scheduled for 18-19 Nov

BK1411091193 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1215 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] The Vietnam Peasants' Association held a news conference in Hanoi on the morning of 12 November concerning its second congress. Attending were representatives of 40 central and local newspapers and many foreign correspondents in Hanoi.

Comrade Nguyen Van Chinh, member of the Party Central Committee and chairman of the Vietnam Peasants' Association, said: The main purposes of the second national congress of the Vietnam Peasants' Association are to:

1. Approve a report on the activities of the association, with attention being given to the peasants' socioeconomic development activities during the 1988-93 period and also to the orientations and tasks for the 1993-98 period.

2. Report on the revision of a statute of the Vietnam Peasants' Association.

3. Elect a new central committee for the Vietnam Peasants' Association.

The second national congress of the Vietnam Peasants' Association will be held for two days, 18 and 19 November, at the Ba Dinh conference hall in Hanoi.

At the news conference, the comrade chairman of the association answered some questions raised by local and foreign newsmen about the renovation of the association's activities and about the peasants' role in socioeconomic development in Vietnam.

Imports, Exports Rise in First 10 Months

BK1511065593 Hanoi VNA in English 0559 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 15—In the first ten months of this year, the country grossed USD [U.S. Dollars] 2,193 million in export value, an increase of 10.5 per cent over the corresponding period last year, according to sources from the General Department of Statistics.

Remarkably increased exports include 5,001,700 tonnes of crude oil, up 11.2 per cent, textile products and garments worth USD 219.3 million, up 123.8 per cent, sea-products worth USD 301.1 million, up 19.2 per cent, 79,300 tonnes of ground-nut, up 38.3 per cent, 9,500 tonnes of tea, up 46.5 per cent, and 10,000 tonnes of processed-meat, up 106.6 per cent.

In the period under review, 1,427,000 tonnes of rice were exported equivalent to that of the corresponding period last year.

However, the exports of coal and tin fell about 15 per cent compared with last year's figures. Meanwhile imports were estimated at USD 2,587 billion, an increase of 32.1 per cent over the same period in 1992. The import value of equipment was USD 193.6 million, increasing 31.2 per cent, and that of goods, usd 2,393.4 million, up 32.2 per cent.

The increase in import value was mainly attributed to the import of equipment for the 500 KV north-south transmission line construction. High import increase was also recorded in cars, 3.6 times motobikes, 11.1 times, insecticide and materials for insecticide production, 2.4 times cotton, 3.2 times electronic components, 2 times.

The most dramatic fall in import was nitrogeneous fertilizer, down 10.6 per cent, because 480,000 tonnes remained in stock.

Industrial Production Increases 10 Percent

BK1411063293 Hanoi VNA in English 0621 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 14—In the first ten months of this year the Hanoi industrial sector showed annual growth of 10 percent.

It registered a total output value of over 130 billion dong, or 97.8 percent of the annual plan. This marked an increase of 10 percent compared with last year. Of this figure, the export value accounted for 41.2 percent, up 122 percent over the same period last year.

So far this year the Hanoi industrial sector has remitted over 21 billion dong to the state budget, representing 86.7 percent of its yearly plan, marking an increase of 53.6 percent over the corresponding period last year.

In October only, 10 units under hanoi industrial sector had a turnover over 1 billion dong, and 4 units delivered over 100 million dong to the state budget. Some units have already fulfilled their yearly production plans.

One thing worth noting is that the unemployment rate dropped from 8 per cent last year to 5 per cent. Thirty four out of 52 units in this sector generated enough jobs for their workers. Even some export units recruited more workers, such as Ngoc Ha Shoe Company.

Monthly average income of workers has also improved. At present, it reached at about 200,000 dong. Some units have monthly average income over 300,000 dong. For example the electrical engineering enterprise (634,000 dong), 10-10 textile factory (574,000 dong), hanoi plastic enterprise (330,000 dong).

The achievement was made thanks to constant efforts to improve product quality, design and packaging and it proved that Hanoi industrial sector gained a firm foothold in the current economy market.

Australia

Keating Addresses Nation on Native Title Issue

LD1511142693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Paul Keating on 15 November—recorded]

[Text] When the High Court of Australia handed down the Mabo judgment last year, it set our generation of Australians a great challenge. The court's decision was unquestionably just. It rejected a lie and acknowledged the truth. The lie was terra nullius—the convenient fiction that Australia had been a land of no one. The truth was native title—the fact that the land had once belonged to Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Australians and that in some places a legal right to it had survived the 200 years of European settlement.

So here was an issue the country could not ignore either legally or morally. There was another form of title that had to become part of the way we manage land in Australia. We owe it to aboriginal Australians, to all Australians—indeed we owe it to our fair and democratic traditions and to future generations—to recognize native title.

Tonight we are within reach of an enlightened practical response to Mabo. I will be proposing legislation to parliament this week which meets both the spirit of the High Court's decision and Australia's responsibilities and needs.

The bill will necessarily be complex. But this evening I want to cut through the complexities to the sum of its simple principles. Firstly, to get the background straight: Over tens of thousands of years, Aboriginal people had developed a complex culture built on a profound attachment to the land. The land nourished them spiritually as well as materially. In the landscape and the life upon it they saw evidence of the (?epoch) of creation. Down through the generations they passed on laws, customs, traditions, and ceremonies reflecting an obligaton to care for the land which went to the heart of their society. Yet this most remarkable fact about Australia, this oldest continuous civilization on earth, has until now been denied by Australian law.

The first European settlers declared that the land had belonged to no one and the indigenous Australians were shunted aside, often with appalling brutality. Much of the despair and degradation, conflict and disease, and many of the problems which Aboriginal Australians face today are a consequence of this disposition.

We have no need, nor any use for guilt. This generation cannot be held responsible for the cruelty of previous generations. But to ignore Mabo would be the final cruelty. And we would be held responsible by the world and by future generations of Australians. And they'd be right to hold us responsible.

There is much in Australia's history of which we can be tremendously proud, for here in Australia we have created a modern, tolerant, free, prosperous, and democratic society. But we must understand that Australia's success has had a price; and surely the highest price has been paid by aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Australians. They often paid with their lives, with their rights, with their dignity, with their happiness, with their land. And when the connection to the land was broken, their society and economy was devastated. But the connection was not broken everywhere. And it is a testament to the tenacity and resilience of aboriginal Australians that so much of their culture, so much of the aboriginal story has been passed on through generations down to this day.

In 1982, (?Eddie) Mabo and four others began action seeking a legal declaration of their traditional land rights in the Murray Islands of the Torres Strait. Ten years later on 3 June last year the High Court decided his people were entitled, as against the whole world, to possession—and I emphasize possession—occupation, use and enjoyment of these lands. Thus the High Court of Australia recognized native title and aboriginal custom and tradition as a source of Australian common law.

The Court accepted that native title existed where two fundamental conditions were met: That their connection with the land had been maintained unbroken down through the years and that this title had not been overturned by any action of a government to use the land or to give it to somebody else. It is probably only where there is so-called vacant crown land and in remote areas where traditional aboriginal life has not been disrupted that native title exists. Nevertheless the High Court's decision posed many problems:

Who holds native title over the land, and where? What rights native title provided to aboriginal people to control access to the land and the use of it. What rules should govern dealings in native title land? And how can our vital land-based industries get on with the business of developing our natural resources?

From the outset the government recognized that these uncertainties needed to be faced. The court had made its decision but there was not the body of administration and law to give effect to it.

From late last year the government has been developing a framework for such a law and discussing the principles on which it would be based—the first of these principles being justice for indigenous Australians.

What sort of country would Australia be? How could we claim respect for the law, if, after the highest court in the land has recognized native title, we denied it? How could we say we stand for a fair go if we were to wipe away a title to land which has lasted through thousands of years of occupation of the continent and 200 years of European settlement? How could we explain it to aboriginal Australians? Indeed, how could we explain it to the whole world?

For to deny the High Court decision, to deny native title in Australian common law would deny justice, for it would deny indigenous Australians rights to land enjoyed by other Australians. And the result could only be antagonism, court room battles, and uncertainties in the community and in industry.

There is no decent or practical option but to recognize the High Court decision and to make it work—which brings me to the second of our objectives: We must maintain a system of land management in Australia which provides clear and predictable rules, security, and certainty for people who hold land and a capacity for dealings in land to proceed effectively. So it must be an efficient system of land management, but it must also be fair.

The legislation which we will introduce will accomplish these objectives. It will enable us to determine who has native title, where, and the rights involved. It will give aboriginal people holding native title the right to negotiate about actions affecting the land a right, but not a veto. It will commit governments to step in and decide in the final analysis whether an important economic project should proceed. It will have the Commonwealth Government play its proper role in setting clear rules and standards for dealings which affect native title. It will leave land management to the state and territory governments if they accept the national standards. It will set up a system of courts and tribunals, in effect as an umpire on matters of native title. It will, to the extent practicable, preserve native title from extinguishment, and where it is extinguished ensure just compensation. And it will provide security so that no one who owns a home, a farm, a mine, a tourist operation—no one—need have concern about their (?property).

No one group will get all they want from this legislation—not aboriginal people, not industry, not governments. But the national interest will be served. And only the Commonwealth legislation is capable of serving it.

As you know, at the moment the Western Australian Government disagrees with the Commonwealth approach and is trying to go it alone.

Going it alone is not the answer. Ultimately the Commonwealth law will prevail over the West Australian legislation and in the meantime uncertainty will only continue. There is only one way to provide certainty, and that is with a single, uniform, national approach—a fair and predictable set of (?laws) which everyone can work with.

This is not just my view. It is the view of seven out of the eight state and territory governments, all of whom believe this legislation can work.

With the challenge of Mabo effectively met, with native title efficiently brought within our land management systems, we can move on.

We can move on to see Mabo as the tremendous opportunity it is: An opportunity to right an historic wrong; an opportunity to transcend the history of dispossession; an opportunity to restore the age-old link between aboriginal land and culture; an opportunity to heal a source of bitterness; an opportunity to recognize aboriginal culture as a defining element of our nationhood and to make clear that this Australia—this modern, free and tolerant Australia—can be a secure and bountiful place for all, including the first Australians.

Thank you.

Government Welcomes Burma-UNHCR Memorandum

BK1211121493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Australia has welcomed the signing of an understanding between the Burmese Government and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR]. Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans says the memorandum provided for the establishment of a UN presence in Burma's Rakhine State. The refugee organization would monitor the return and reintegration of Burmese refugees from Bangladesh. Senator Evans said the agreement signed last week meant the UNHCR would have a presence at the reception camp and access to all returnees. The returnees would be issued with the identification papers and enjoy the same freedom of movement as all Burmese nationals. Australian foreign minister said the establishment of the UNHCR presence in Burma would do much to allay the concerns of the refugees and the international community.

Indonesian Air Force Participates in Exercise

BK1311121293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Australia's and Indonesia's air forces are combining in a joint exercise near the north Sumatran city of Medan. An Indonesian Air Force spokesman says the three-day exercise of air combat tactics will involve four F-5 Tigers and four Australian Hornets. The spokesman said its aim was also to develop friendship between the two air forces. He said, with the clear superiority of Hornet over Tiger in technology and capability, Indonesian pilots would take the defensive side during the exercise.

Statistics on Trade, Investment Within APEC

BK1211081393 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Australia has released the detailed statistical analysis of trade and investment among the 15 economies of APEC, the Asia Pacific economic group. The report's been released in a lead up to next week's fifth annual APEC ministerial meeting in Seattle and the first informal leaders' summit. The study says APEC economies account for 41 percent of total world exports and more than half of the world's gross domestic product. APEC covers North America, North and Southeast Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. From Canberra, Graeme Dobell reports:

[Begin Dobell recording in progress] ...[word indistinct] reports Australian Trade Minister Peter Cook said the internal concentration of APEC export has grown substantially over the last decade, with 15 regional linkages. Trade between Asia-Pacific economies grew from 53 percent of the total in 1981 to 65 percent by 1986. Inter-APEC trade had since remained on a plateau of about 66 percent of total trade.

United States' deficit with the other APEC economies last year hit U.S.$106 billion. Japan's surplus with the APEC economies last year was U.S.$78 billion. Senator Cook said the report clearly identified APEC as Australia's largest and fastest growing market. Australia's merchandised trade with APEC has risen, over 10 years, from 63 percent to 70 percent last financial year. [end recording]

New Zealand

Prime Minister Says New Elections Possible

BK1511073793 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] New Zealand's Prime Minister Jim Bolger has indicated that another election in the next couple of months is possible if the minority government is unable to effectively run the country. Mr. Bolger said New Zealand had to be governed and can't be allowed to drift endlessly. General elections on 6 November produced a hung parliament with the ruling National Party holding 49 of the 99 seats, the Labor Party 46, and the Alliance and New Zealand First parties two seats each. However, the result could change this week when 200,000 special votes are counted from tomorrow.

The news agency AFP said a large number of seat are held by narrow majority and are expected to switch. Earlier, Mr. Bolger said he would attempt to form a minority government.